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Hafa Adai!

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CHCC to insurance firms: Pay up

World War II veteran Marvin Strombo, second right, and Tatsuya Yasue, left, hold a Japanese flag with autographed messages that was owned by his brother Sadao Yasue, who was killed in the Pacific during World Work II, during a ceremony in Higashishirakawa, in central Japan's Gifu prefecture Tuesday, Aug. 15, 2017. AP

US vet returns dead Japanese soldier's flag

By MARI YAMAGUCHI
ASSOCIATED PRESS

HIGASHISHIRAKAWA, Japan (AP)—Tatsuya Yasue buried his face into the flag and smelled it. Then he held the 93-year-old hands that brought this treasure home, and kissed them.

Marvin Strombo, who had taken the calligraphy-covered Japanese flag from a dead soldier at World War II island battlefield 73 years ago, returned it Tuesday to the family of Sadao Yasue. They had never gotten his body or—until that moment—anything else of his.

Yasue and Tatsuya's sister Sayoko Furuta, 93, sitting in her wheelchair, covered her face with both hands and wept silently as Tatsuya placed the flag on her lap. Strombo reached out and gently rubbed her shoulder.

"I was so happy that I returned the flag," Strombo said. "I can see how much the flag meant to her. That almost made me cry ... It meant everything in the world to her."

The flag's white back-

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By BEA CABRERA
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REPORTER

» Insurance companies said to owe hospital $6M

After accommodating insured patients to meet their needs, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. is now pushing health insurance companies to do their part and pay the hospital for services rendered.

"We want to maintain our services and be available but we also want to get paid. We weren't able to do that in the past because we were behind in our billings and in our payment postings," said CHCC CEO Esther Muña.

CHCC has now updated its

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Settlement Fund gets $30M

The CNMI government, through the Department of Finance, has remitted $30 million to the Settlement Fund, as part of its annual obligation to the retirees of the CNMI.

According to Finance Secretary Larrisa Larson, the department has met its obligation this fiscal year to CNMI retirees by remitting a total of $33 million within the third quarter, thereby paying the amount required by the Settlement Agreement and budget laws for fiscal year 2017.

"In the previous year, we fulfilled our obligation on time. This year, that goal has not changed as we continue to meet our obligations to our

See $30M on Page 4

Torres keeps eye on N. Korea issue

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The North Korea issue may be calming down, with its leader appearing to be holding off on an imminent launch of missiles into waters near Guam, but Gov. Ralph DLG Torres continues to monitor the situation.

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In a statement to *Saipan Tribune*, the Torres administration assured that the Commonwealth government "will continue to monitor the situation as it develops."

"My administration, through the Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, just

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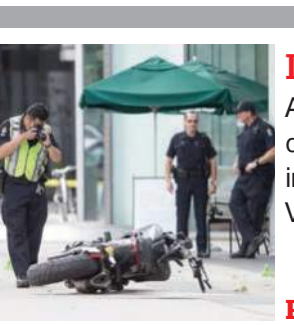

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A motorcycle stunt driver dies while filming 'Deadpool 2' in Vancouver.
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Local

Kilili: Choice providers triple for Marianas vets

After wrapping up a series of workshops on the Veterans Choice Program for veterans and dozens of local healthcare providers on Rota, Tinian, and Saipan last week, Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) announced yesterday that the number of community care providers available to island veterans is now three times what it was a month ago.

"As of this week, we have nearly 70 healthcare providers in the Marianas who are enrolled in the Choice network and are ready and able to serve our veterans—up from a little over 20 just a few weeks ago," Sablan said.

"This means that eligible veterans now have access, through the Choice program, to almost all of the providers at the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., including the Rota and Tinian Health Centers, the Kagman Community Health Center, and about a dozen private clinics in the Marianas for services that include primary care, specialty care, physical therapy, eye care, and mental health."

The Veterans Choice program was created by Congress in 2014 to provide veterans across the nation with options to seek healthcare in their communities, when care from the Department of Veterans Affairs is not readily available.

At last week's workshops, Sablan noted that the need for healthcare alternatives was especially great in remote and rural areas of America, such as the Marianas.

"VA doctors and clinics were too far away or required getting on a plane or boat, or veterans were waiting too long to get the VA care they needed," he said.

After the Veterans Choice Program was launched in Hawaii and the Pacific island territories in 2015, Sablan saw the need for greater awareness among both veterans and providers in the Marianas.

"In talking with veterans and providers here, it was clear to me that word had not gotten out. Veterans did not know they had the option of going to community providers. And community providers did not join the Choice network. Or providers joined Choice, but did not fully understand how it worked," he said.

To address these concerns, Sablan invited David McIntyre, CEO and president of TriWest, the company that manages Choice for the VA in 28 states and the Pacific territories, to personally visit the Marianas to conduct a series of workshops for veterans, their families, and providers. McIntyre and TriWest Pacific regional director Karl Kiyokawa traveled to Rota, Tinian, and Saipan with Sablan last week. They met with more than 80 veterans and their family members, and trained dozens of clinical and administrative representatives from public and private healthcare facilities across the Marianas. A total of seven workshops—four for providers and three for veterans and their families—were held on the three islands. The VA Pacific Islands Health Care System also sent a representative, administrative officer Francisco "Orlando" Valdez to serve as a VA resource and answer questions at the workshops.

"I am grateful to Mr. McIntyre and Mr. Kiyokawa for conducting these workshops and meeting with veterans and providers on all three of our islands to get the 'ground truth' about the challenges veterans face here in getting the care they need and deserve," Sablan said. "And I thank VAPIHCS director Jennifer Gutowski and her representative, Mr. Valdez, for supporting the congressional office's outreach as well."

Sablan also announced to veterans and providers that the Veterans Choice program and VA healthcare received a $3.9 billion funding boost from Congress.

"Choice has proven to be so popular among veterans that the cost is greater than was first budgeted for, and the money was going to run out this month," Sablan said. "The Trump administration had proposed taking money away from some vets to give to others to keep the Choice program going, but this was not a plan that I or other Democrats on the Veterans Affairs Committee could agree to. We blocked the Trump proposal until we could come up with emergency funding instead.

"And fortunately, just before we recessed this month, agreement was reached among the House Veterans Affairs Committee, the appropriations committees, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and the White House to add more money to the program through this alternative mechanism."

To confirm their eligibility and request an appointment with a community care provider through Choice, veterans should call the toll-free Veterans Choice line, at 1-866-606-8198. The TriWest call center in Honolulu has a team dedicated to the Marianas that operates Monday to Friday, 7am to 8pm (Marianas time). Providers in the TriWest network are certified to meet the VA's quality standards. All care must be authorized by TriWest before services can be rendered. Veterans may directly request their own appointments through the Veterans Choice line and do not need a Choice card or a referral from the VA to use Choice. If a veteran opts to use Choice, TriWest is the primary payer and providers will not collect any copays, cost-shares, or deductibles from the veteran.

For more information about the Veterans Choice program, visit www.triwest.com or https://www.va.gov/opa/choiceact/ or contact the congressional office at kilili@mail.house.gov or (670) 323-2647. ***(PR)***

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AQUA RESORT CLUB Saipan

'We deserve quality produce'

The importance of high-quality local produce was the topic of conversations at the proclamation signing that declared Aug. 14-19 as Farmers and Ranchers Week.

Speaking on Monday at the Garapan Public Market, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres said that locally grown produce are healthier, cheaper, and lessens the chances of consuming possibly hazardous chemicals.

At the same time, the proclamation recognizes the hard work of island farmers to ensure that consumers get premium quality crops, he said.

Torres said it is vital that the produce is both high in quantity and quality and the farmers who sell their produce at the market has achieved both.

One of the biggest challenges that island farmers face is labor, according to U.S. Department of Agriculture executive director Travis Thomson. Another struggle is finding a market to sell the produce local farmers grow.

To encourage local consumption of produce, Thompson invited the community to check out the Agricultural Fair this Saturday at the Garapan Fishing Base. He said this will hopefully create consumers who are ready to buy local produce. ***(Kimberly A. Bautista)***

Public schools open today with new themes

By BEA CABRERA
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REPORTER

Public schools throughout the CNMI will officially open today, with yearlong themes to help build student spirit, morale, camaraderie, and achievement.

"Our school theme this year is 'Paving the Road to Success.' This is for all the teachers and students," said Garapan Elementary School principal Leila C. Yumul.

"Garapan Elementary School is looking forward to starting the year to meet all the needs of our [children]. Our teachers and students have our full support by making sure they are well taken cared off," added Yumul.

"Paving the Road to Success" starts with the new school materials that GES has in store for its teachers and students.

"This year, we are just really excited because we have new curriculum materials that were purchased for the school district. Our teachers are very excited to get the planning started," she said.

"Teaching with new resources and having undergone professional development for several days actually helped us on how to implement the new materials and how to gain some support services. We are focused on instructional support for our students and just moving from there," Yumul added.

GES is the largest elementary school in the Commonwealth.

For Marianas High School, the largest high school in the CNMI, this year's theme is "Aspiring to Greatness."

"My message to all our students is that there will be some changes and such are in the name of student achievement and student improvement," said MHS principal Cherlyn Cabrera.

At MHS, she said the school aims to provide the best education to students, the best opportunity for them, and that it really shares the parents and students' desire to reach their dreams.

"Dream that they can finish high school, that they can get to college, that they can get scholarships, can join military, and can get work. Be anyone they want to be," added Cabrera.

Last year, MHS was able to send many of their graduates to off-island colleges and universities with accompanying scholarships.

"We just have so many successes from our Class of 2017 so we hope to increase the number of successful students this year," said Cabrera.

In related news, the Northern Marianas College will host a free information session tomorrow, Aug. 17, 2017, from 5:30pm to 6:30pm in Room D-1 at the college's As Terlaje campus. For more information about the information session and/or applying to NMC, contact the Office of Admissions & Records at 237-6770, email oar@marianas.edu or visit www.marianas.edu.

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Fond farewell to Suzanne Steffy

Attorney General Edward Manibusan and Chief Justice Alexandro Castro paid tribute to outgoing CNMI Bar Association executive director Suzanne Steffy for her outstanding contribution and dedication to the Attorney General's Cup Speech Competition.

Manibusan said, "Suzanne has played an important role in the success of the AG's Cup and, while we will miss her and having her a part of the committee, we wish her the best of luck in her future endeavors."

Saipan was home for Steffy for the past 11 years. She will be leaving the CNMI shortly and plans to spend time with her family who live abroad. ***(PR)***

From left, deputy attorney general Lillian A. Tenorio, Chief Justice Alexandro C. Castro, Suzanne Steffy, and Attorney General Edward Manibusan. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

US VET

From Page 1

ground is filled with signatures of 180 friends and neighbors in this tea-growing mountain village of Higashishirakawa, wishing Yasue's safe return. The signatures helped Strombo find its rightful owners.

"Good luck forever at the battlefield," a message on it reads. Looking at the names and their handwriting, Tatsuya Yasue clearly recalls their faces and friendship with his brother.

The smell of the flag immediately brought back childhood memories. "It smelled like my good old big brother, and it smelled like our mother's home cooking we ate together," Tatsuya Yasue said. "The flag will be our treasure."

The return of the flag brings closure, the 89-year-old farmer and younger brother of Sadeo Yasue told The Associated Press at his 400-year-old house on Monday. "It's like the war has finally ended and my brother can come out of limbo."

Tatsuya Yasue last saw his older brother alive the day before he left for the South Pacific in 1943. He and two siblings had a small send-off picnic for the oldest brother outside his military unit over sushi and Japanese sweet mochi. At the end of the meeting, his brother whispered to Tatsuya, asking him to take good care of their parents, as he would be sent to the Pacific islands, harsh battlegrounds where chances of survival were low.

A year later, Japanese authorities sent the family a wooden box with a few stones at the bottom—a substitute for his body. They knew no details of Sadeo's death until months after the war ended, when they were told he died somewhere in the Mariana Islands presumably on July 18, 1944, the day Saipan fell, at age 25.

"That's all we were told about my brother. We never knew exactly when, where or how he died," he said. The family had wondered whether he might have died at sea. About 20 years ago, Tatsuya Yasue visited Saipan with his younger brother, trying to imagine what their older brother might have gone through.

So Strombo was able to give Yasue's family not just a flag, but also some answers.

He said he found Sadeo Yasue's body on the outskirts of Garapan, a village in Saipan, when he got lost and ended up near the Japanese frontline. He told Yasue's siblings their brother likely died of a concussion from a mortar round. He told them that Sadao was lying on the ground on his left side, looking peacefully as if he was sleeping and without severe wounds.

And there is one more thing Strombo delivered: a little hope that Yasue's remains might one day be recovered, given the details about where he found the body.

The remains of nearly half of the 2.4 million Japanese war dead overseas have yet to be found. It's a pressing issue as the bereaved families reach old age and memories fade.

Allied troops frequently took the flags from the bodies of their enemies as souvenirs, as Japanese flags were quite popular and fetched good prices when auctioned, Strombo said. But to the Japanese bereaved families, they have a much deeper meaning, especially those, like Yasue, who never learned how their loved ones died and never received remains. Japanese government has requested auction sites to stop trading wartime signed flags.

Strombo said Tuesday that he originally wanted the flag as a souvenir from the war, but he felt guilty taking it, so he never sold it and vowed to one day return it.

He had the flag hung in a glass-fronted gun cabinet in his home in Montana for years, a topic of conversation for visitors. He was in the battles of Saipan, Tarawa and Tinian, which chipped away at Japan's control of islands in the Pacific and paved the way for U.S. victory.

In 2012, he was connected to the Obon Society, an Oregon-based nonprofit that helps U.S. veterans and their descendants return Japanese flags to the families of fallen soldiers. The group's research traced it to the village of 2,300 people in central Japan by analyzing family names.

CHCC

From Page 1

billing records and that means their records are now current; this time, they want insurance companies to be current with their payments as well.

"Now that we are updated, we are basically saying that our records are valid and legitimate. These are not just numbers but actual claims. We are saying that these were provided for your members and health insurance companies must pay," said Muña.

To date, three health insurance providers owe CHCC at least $2 million each, Muña said. These are TakeCare Health Plans, StayWell Saipan, Inc., and Calvo's Insurance.

"What we have been doing recently is we've been closely monitoring the insurance companies and how they are performing. The system is showing a $2-million claim from each insurance company and we need it. Our vendors go after us so we need to go after insurance companies, too, to do their part," Muña said.

CHCC has hired Tiffany Sablan as Revenue Cycle director and her hiring and other improvements in CHCC's revenue cycle has resulted in updated financial processes in the hospital's billing and collection system.

"The majority of the insurance claims are from the last two years. Some of them even goes back to 2012 but the reality is that majority of those claims are from the last two years. These should be collectible," Muña said.

She said that CHCC needs to identify funding sources to be able to implement its plans to increase salaries, improve services, and hire more doctors for Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

"As for the salary increase, we implemented some and the idea is, by October 1st, we are going to implement the salary scale that we submitted in our budget plan. We plan to improve our services, especially in the improvement of care and renovations of facilities. That is why we are more aggressive in collecting our claims," Muña added.

Non-payment could push CHCC to get out of the insurances' network.

"We don't have contracts with them but we plan to have provider agreements with them. That has not been completed because some questions need answers and at the end of the day, there needs to be mutual agreement between CHCC and the health insurance providers," she said.

According to the CHCC CEO, the Legislature plans to introduce a bill that is similar to Guam's prompt payment law and this is welcome.

"Guam has a prompt payment law where the claims are billed by the Guam Memorial Hospital, that insurance companies have a certain time to 'scrub it' and basically say these are the bills that are clean so we have to pay the hospital or in our case, the CHCC."

Pushing for payment from these health insurance companies is a way of providing service to patients who were attended to by CHCC and who are paying insurance premiums to get service.

"At CHCC, our utmost obligation is to serve our patients who are members of these health insurance providers and, that being so, it is their obligation to pay us," Muña said.

$30M

From Page 1

retirees. We want to ensure that our retirees receive their pensions in a timely manner," Larson said.

In fiscal year 2016, obligation payments were made on time and fully paid by the end of September.

"It is a priority of this administration to pay what is due to our retirees," said Gov. Ralph DLG Torres.

"I commend the Department of Finance for remitting the payment in full a month in advance. We are making great strides to pay off our obligations and put our government in a better position to address other critical issues," Torres added.

An additional $3.5 million received by the Settlement Fund is supplemental funding to retirees and beneficiaries, Larson said.

"The administration worked with the Legislature to pass Public Law 19-75 to give our retirees a supplement. As a result, Finance remitted $3.5 million in bonus payments to our retirees this fiscal year. This amount was equally distributed to all beneficiaries and their dependents," Larson said.

Torres reiterated the administration's commitment to meeting its fiscal responsibilities moving forward.

"We have so much more priorities to address, but we will continue our work of cleaning up our finance and bettering the lives of the entire Commonwealth with a growing economy. We hope to continue building on this commitment into the next fiscal year," Torres said. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

TORRES

From Page 1

released fact sheets and tips in the chance that a shelter-in-place is necessary," Torres said in the statement.

"Regardless of any change in threat level, we are committed to ensuring the safety and protection of everyone who calls these islands home. As we continue to monitor the ongoing events, we will continue to be responsive and transparent on any new information from Guam and the Department of Defense," he added.

The high tension in the region prompted the local Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management yesterday to disseminate information on how to take "shelter in place," including basic medical and survival kits for families.

For more information, visit the HSEM website at www.cnmihsem.gov.mp or call 237-8000 or 664-8000.

In yesterday's daily briefing on the North Korean threat, Guam Lt. Gov. Ray Tenorio said that based on the Guam government's assessments, there were no indication that the island would be facing a missile attack "in the near future or in the distant future."

North Korea's state news agency KCNA reported earlier in the day that leader Kim Jong Un had examined plans for a launch. It quoted Kim as saying he would watch what he called the "foolish and stupid conduct of the Yankees" a little more before deciding whether to order a test.

Tenorio said "we're happy that he has taken a look at their plans" and appears to be holding off on a launch.

"There is no change to our threat assessment and we operating as usual," said Tenorio, adding that the government and the tourism on the island continues to grow "without major changes in our forecast."

At a Guam Visitors Bureau membership meeting, yesterday GVB president and CEO Nathan Denight said the latest numbers show that Guam's tourism was up 5 percent despite the North Korean threats against the island.

Guam Homeland Security adviser George Charfauros Jr. echoed the unchanged threat assessment.

Tenorio said they were in communication with Guam Homeland Security Office as well as the Joint Region Marianas.

"We trust that our country, including our President's assertion to protect our island, are going to be held to his word," said Tenorio.

Guam Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo (D-GU) said in a statement yesterday that she was "heartened by reports that North Korea has decided, for now, to walk back their threats of an imminent attack on or around Guam."

According to her statement, U.S. Defense Secretary James Mattis and U.S. General Joseph Dunford's "firm statements" sent a clear message to North Korea: Attacks toward Guam is an act of war.

According to news reports, Mattis said that if North Korea fires a missile toward the U.S., it would "escalate into war very quickly." It was also reported that Mattis stressed that should a missile be fired toward Guam or the U.S., "we'll take it out."

Along with the firm statements by U.S. officials, Bordallo stressed that this was Trump's way of "signaling his commitment to Guam's defense."

"While I remain confident that our island is safe and well-protected, I hope that all parties will work to further de-escalate tensions and ensure stability in the region."

Dozens held signs and waved Guam's flag during a rally for peace in the U.S. territory.

Participants chanted "Peace, not war, that's what our island is for." Demonstrators sang Guam's hymn and blew kulo or shell trumpets.

Melvin Won Pat-Borja says many people in the community are frustrated, scared and worried. The 35-year-old says it's not a good feeling to have your life threatened. ***(With AP)***

OAG drops sex abuse case vs retired Army reservist

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Office of the Attorney General dropped yesterday its sexual abuse case against a retired Army reservist but it has the option to re-file the case in the future.

The OAG reportedly had the case against Michael Barry Murphy dropped as it would be unable to prove its case at trial. Barry, 54, was accused of sexual abuse of a minor.

Superior Court Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio said the prosecution—represented by assistant attorney general Betsy Weintraub—sought the case's dismissal after being unable to present evidence that was not tendered during discovery and a challenge to witness competency.

In addition to Weintraub's lack of diligence and case management, Kim-Tenorio said insufficient evidence warrants dismissing the case.

Kim-Tenorio ordered Weintraub to appear in court on Aug. 29 to show cause as to why she should not be sanctioned for lack of diligence and dilatory tactics.

The judge vacated the jury trial that was set for Sept. 11, 2017, as well as the pre-trial conference scheduled for yesterday, Aug. 15.

According to court records, the case involves two alleged sexual assault offenses.

In August 2016, the OAG charged Murphy with sexual abuse of a minor in the first degree and sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree. The trial was originally set for Feb. 13, 2017, and was moved to April 3, 2017, and finally to Sept. 11, 2017.

Last July 7, Weintraub filed a motion to extend the discovery deadline. She argued that she was unaware of the discovery deadline until one month prior to the deadline.

Last Aug. 2, Kim-Tenorio denied the government's motion.

At the Aug. 8, 2017, status conference, Weintraub asked the court to reconsider.

Kim-Tenorio denied this again, saying reconsideration would prejudice the defense and cause extreme delay.

Last Thursday, Weintraub filed the motion to dismiss in which it indicated the government's inability to prove its case.

Defense counsel Janet H. King argued that the Commonwealth failed to prosecute diligently and that the appropriate remedy is to dismiss the case with prejudice.

In her order yesterday, Kim-Tenorio said she disagrees with the government's argument that public interest is better served by dismissal.

"This matter involves serious charges of sexual assault, which is a matter of great public significance in the Commonwealth, even more so to the alleged victim and/or defendant," Kim-Tenorio said.

Moreover, Kim-Tenorio said, a tremendous amount of resources have been expended in the prosecution and defense of this matter, including thousands of wasted taxpayer dollars and resources of already-overburdened agencies.

Most importantly, she said, public interest requires a trial to vindicate the alleged victim or defendant.

Clearly, she said, Weintraub needs to evaluate her definition of public interest.

Murphy is currently out on a $50,000 bond. The government charged him with sexual abuse of a minor in the first degree and sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree, for allegedly sexually abusing a 4-year-old girl on Aug. 6, 2016.

In the second case, the government charged him with two counts of sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree, and one count of indecent exposure in the first degree. The incident allegedly happened from 1994 to 2004 when the victim was a minor. The victim is now 26 years old, according to court documents.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to the Open Government Act (1CMC § 9901), The Honorable Antonio Sn Borja, Chairman of the Tinian Municipal Council announces that the 16th Tinian Municipal Council will convene the following Regular Session on Saturday, August 19, 2017 @ 9:00 am at the Tinian Municipal Council Conference Room.

AGENDA

I. CALL TO ORDER
II. ROLL CALL
III. ADOPTION OF AGENDA
IV. OLD BUSINESS
V. NEW BUSINESS
  A. EAGI Committee Hearing: Juan O. Barcinas, Resident Deputy Commissioner for Department of Fire & Emergency Medical Services
  B. Public Comments
VI. MISCELLANEOUS/ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS
VII. ADJOURNMENT

/s/ Antonio Sn Borja
Chairman

FHB.COM/YES

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July 25 to August 18
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Case vs man accused of attacking wife is dropped

Charges were dropped Monday against a 27-year-old man who allegedly shattered the window of a vehicle where his wife was with their child and her friend at the entrance of Coral Ocean Point in Koblerville.

At a preliminary hearing, Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho found no probable cause to believe that the crimes of assault and battery and two counts of disturbing the peace were committed.

The case against Benjamin Bok Lee was dismissed without prejudice, which means the prosecution may re-file the case in the future. Lee was immediately released.

Camacho said one of the most vital tools that police officers have is their credibility especially when they testify. He found it odd that an interview with Lee two days prior to the issuance of a warrant for Lee's arrest was completely omitted.

Camacho said the omission of Lee's statement makes it unclear to the court what triggered the incident.

"It goes to the level of credibility whether to believe or not to believe the testimony of the officer," the judge said. "I said this many times, officers carry a badge so they can perform their duties and firearm to protect themselves and others in the community."

He noted that a police's job is to interview witnesses, gather evidence, and not to make a decision as to what should be included or what should not be included in the affidavits.

At the hearing, assistant attorney general Jonathan Wilberscheid called police detective Jenny Butalon to the witness stand.

Assistant public defender Nancy Dominski served as counsel for Lee.

Lee's wife allegedly wanted a divorce because of his use of methamphetamine or "ice."

Lee allegedly repeatedly punched his wife's male friend, who was also inside the car and had aided her.

When a police officer arrived at the scene in the evening last Aug. 1, Lee was bleeding from his right hand and had a cut on his left forearm, scrapes on the right elbow, and his left eye was swelling.

The officer also saw cuts on the forearms of the wife's friend, but he refused medical treatment.

The wife and his friend told police that Lee attacked them while they were inside the car.

FOODIE EXPERT CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The man behind the Noodle Bar offering at Sichuan Restaurant is executive chef Chen Hai Song, seen here with Lucy Guo. The Sichuan Restaurant's Noodle Bar is offering a 10-percent local discount. It is located across the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan in downtown Garapan.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Garapan Fishing Base parking lot closed

The Garapan Fishing Base parking lot to the immediate west of the Thursday Night Market will be closed from Aug. 16 to Aug. 19. The Division of Agriculture will be using this area to prepare for the upcoming Agriculture Fair on Aug. 19, 2017. The Garapan Fishing Base boat ramp will still be open for boating access. ***(PR)***

Free cat adoption month

Saipan's animal welfare group, Saipan Cares for Animals, is hosting a free cat adoption month until the end of August. All cat and kitten adoptions are free until the end of the month on Aug. 31. Call Beth at 285-5448 or visit www.SaipanCaresforAnimals.com to find out more. You can also visit Saipan Cares for Animals on Facebook for directions on how to get there! ***(CSA)***

Class of 1987 gears up for 30-year reunion

The Marianas High School Class of 1987 will be having its 30th-year class reunion on Sept. 23.

The reunion is open to any CNMI Class of 1987 graduate, regardless of which high school they graduated from.

A Mass in honor of departed classmates will be held at the San Antonio Church on Sept. 23, 2017, at 4pm. The reunion will follow immediately after the Mass, from 5:30pm to 10pm, at the Surf Club (beach side) in Chalan Kanoa, the former Pacific Gardenia Sunset Bar and Grill.

"As we approach our 30th year since graduating, the MHS Class of 1987 organizers decided to open up the celebration to other fellow CNMI 1987 alumni. We look forward to catching up, reminiscing, and creating new memories together," said Dave "Doc" Maratita, president of the MHS Class of '87 non-profit organization.

Tickets are available for purchase at $30 per person, which covers both food and corkage fee.

"Ticket sales are by no means a fundraiser but to keep count of the number of attendees. Except for iced tea, drinks are not included in the ticket. Everyone is asked to bring their own beverage for the evening. The venue will be a luau-type setting and everyone is encouraged to come dressed in beach-appropriate '80s wear or islandwear," added Maratita.

To purchase a reunion ticket or to get more information, send an email to cnmiclassof87@gmail.com or join the CNMI Class of '87 Facebook for updates on the reunion event and/or to request for ticket. ***(PR)***

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Audit: Govt income in FY 2016 was higher than estimated

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

An audit on the entire CNMI government covering fiscal year 2016 that came out last week disclosed that general fund revenue for the year exceeded estimates by nearly $21 million.

The audit, conducted by Deloitte & Touche for the Office of the Public Auditor, stated that fiscal year 2016 general fund revenue was "higher than final estimates" by $20.8 million, or 11.4 percent.

In contrast, actual expenditures exceeded final estimated appropriations by $17.9 million, or 9.8 percent, the audit report stated.

The audit specified that these amounts excluded transfers to and from other funds as well as the receipt or use of long-term debt proceeds.

Final revenue estimates for fiscal year 2016 were at $182.7 million but, according to the audit report, the general fund actual revenues for fiscal year 2016 was at $203.0 million, with a difference of $20.8 million or 11.4 percent.

While this may seem like good news, the audit also noted that general fund expenditures exceeded appropriations by $17.9 million, or 9.8 percent due mainly to "unanticipated expenditures."

Included in the unanticipated expenditures list is $2.9 million that went to the Department of Public Safety; the payment of $4.3 million to the Government Health and Life Insurance Trust Fund for employee benefits; Medicaid expenses and medical referrals amounting to $8.5 million; and disaster expenditures amounting to $3.3 million.

The audit concluded that, at the end of fiscal year 2016, the CNMI's General Obligation Bonds went down, from $84.78 million in fiscal year 2015 to $80.48 million at the end of fiscal year 2016—a reduction of $4.3 million.

Deloitte & Touche is upbeat about the CNMI's economic activity, saying the "temporary gaming facility" would "infuse additional revenue into the economy well in advance of the project."

"The positive financial impact of the casino and electronic gaming industry in such a short period of time has been dramatic. It is expected that this positive impact will continue and be reflected in future budgets," the audit reported.

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7D183	RED, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK- SOLD	$3,000	$17,995
7D184	BLACK, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BA SOLD	$3,000	$17,995
7D206	RED, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK- SOLD	$3,000	$17,995
7D207	RED, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM	$3,000	$17,995
7D208	RED, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM	$3,000	$17,995
7D210	BLACK, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM	$3,000	$17,995
7D211	GRAY 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BAC SOLD	$3,000	$17,995
7D212	BLUE, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BAC SOLD	$3,000	$17,995
7D156	SILVER, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BA SOLD Y WHEELS	$3,500	$19,495
7D188	BLACK, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BA SOLD Y WHEELS	$3,500	$19,495
7D216	RED, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS	$3,500	$19,495
7D217	RED, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS	$3,500	$19,495
7D218	BLACK, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BA SOLD Y WHEELS	$3,500	$19,495
7D219	SILVER, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BA SOLD Y WHEELS	$3,500	$19,495

MX-5

7D121	GRAY, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, CLUB SOFT-TOP	$8,000	$25,995
7D180	BLUE, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, CLUB SOFT-TOP	$7,000	$26,995
7D142	CERAMIC, 4-CYL. ENGINE, MT, GRAND TOURING HARD-TOP	$5,500	$32,495

CX-3 GRAND TOURING

7D136	GRAY, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, LEATHER, AWD, SUNROOF	$5,000	$23,995
7D137	CERAMIC, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, LEATHER, AWD, SUNROOF	$5,000	$23,995
7D197	BLACK, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, LEATHER, AWD, SUNROOF	$4,000	$24,995
7D198	CERAMIC, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, LEATHER, AWD, SUNROOF	$4,000	$24,995
7D224	RED, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, LEAT SOLD OOF	$4,000	$24,995
7D225	BLUE, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, LEATHER, AWD, SUNROOF	$4,000	$24,995

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		DISCOUNT	PRICE
7H200	BLACK, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, ALLOY WHEELS	$2,500	$16,495
7H203	BLUE, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, ALLOY WHEELS	$2,500	$16,495
7H204	BLACK, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, ALLOY WHEELS	$2,500	$16,495
7H224	GRAY, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, ALLOY WHEELS	$2,500	$16,495
7H225	RED, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, ALL SOLD	$2,500	$16,495

ELANTRA

7H208	GRAY, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BAC SOLD WHEELS	$4,000	$17,995
7H210	BEIGE, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BAC SOLD WHEELS	$4,000	$17,995
7H211	RED, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS	$4,000	$17,995

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7H220	WHITE, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS	$3,000	$18,995
7H221	RED, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS	$3,000	$18,995
7H233	SILVER, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS	$3,000	$18,995
7H234	GRAY, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS	$3,000	$18,995
7H235	BLUE, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS	$3,000	$18,995

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7HO67	SILVER, LEATHER SEATS, COMPLETELY "LOADED"	$6,500	$38,495

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7H185	BLUE, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BAC SOLD WHEELS	$3,500	$22,495
7H186	BLUE, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BAC SOLD WHEELS	$3,500	$22,495
7H192	SILVER, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BA SOLD Y WHEELS	$3,500	$22,495
7H214	SILVER, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS	$3,000	$22,995
7H215	PEARL, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS	$3,000	$22,995
7H216	BLUE, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS	$3,000	$22,995

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		DISCOUNT	PRICE
7M014	WHITE, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS	$5,000	$19,995
7M017	WHITE, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS	$5,000	$19,995
7M024	BLUE, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS	$4,500	$20,495
7M026	WHITE, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS	$4,500	$20,495
7M027	RED, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS	$4,500	$20,495
7M029	RED, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS	$4,500	$20,495
7M030	SILVER, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS	$4,500	$20,495
7M031	GRAY, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS	$4,500	$20,495

LANCER ES

		DISCOUNT	PRICE
7M032	SILVER, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS	$4,500	$20,495
7M033	BLUE, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS	$4,500	$20,495
7M034	WHITE, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS	$4,500	$20,495

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7M011	BLACK, 4-CYL. ENGINE, 2WD SPORT	$3,000	$24,995
7M022	BLACK, 4-CYL. ENGINE, 7-PAX, 2WD SE	$3,000	$25,995
7M036	SILVER 4-CYL. ENGINE, 7-PAX, 2WD SE	$3,000	$25,995

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Tydingco joins IPI

Tydingco

Former Guam chief prosecutor Phillip J. Tydingco informed the CNMI Legislature on Monday that he has joined Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) as a "general counsel."

Tydingco, who has had a lengthy stint with the Guam Office of the Attorney General well as a private law career in the CNMI, informed lawmakers of his new role in a courtesy visit to both the House of Representatives and the Senate.

IPI senior vice president for special projects Viola Alepuyo accompanied Tydingco in Monday's meetings.

House Speaker Ralph Demapan (R-Saipan), Reps. Angel Demapan (R-Saipan), Frank Aguon (R-Saipan), Donald Barcinas (R-Saipan), John Paul Sablan (R-Saipan), Alice Igitol (R-Saipan), Lorenzo Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan), and minority leader Rep. Edmund Villagomez (Ind-Saipan) welcomed Tydingco in Monday's meet and greet.

Tydingco was also scheduled to meet with CNMI senators in a closed-door meeting.

Rep. Demapan said the CNMI is "pleased to have him here."

"I am very happy to see that somebody like [Tydingco] would join the company in that capacity, because I believe it is important for a company of this magnitude…to have somebody in that position [who is] aware of cultural sensitivities in the Marianas," he said, adding that Tydingco's knowledge of the Marianas could help the company make better decisions.

"We are very happy to see you and [IPI] has made a brilliant choice," Demapan said.

Speaker Demapan echoed this.

"With his experience and knowledge in the legal aspect…I believe this will enhance IPI in their legal matters," he said, before thanking Tydingco for the courtesy visit.

Although he had some questions for the new IPI counsel, Demapan said that Tydingco made clear that he merely had the job for three hours prior to meeting with the members of the Legislature.

"I am sure this would not be the [last time meeting him]," said the speaker.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-17-018

Supply and Delivery of Water and Wastewater Annual Materials

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified vendors for the Supply and Delivery of Water & Wastewater Division Annual Materials for Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

CUC may award a contract to more than one firm for the materials based on bids for "Commodity Groups".

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked ***"CUC-IFB-17-018, Supply & Delivery of Water & Wastewater Division Annual Materials"*** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on September 06, 2017** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and

Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

All responses to this IFB shall take into account any and all taxes which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract.

The IFB does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the bid under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Prospective Bidders must comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered Prospective Bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on August 22, 2017** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Administrator- via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Geoffrey Ada, CUC Water-Wastewater, Inventory Technician – via email address geoffrey.ada@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC Purchasing Assistant-via email address marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN, JR.
Purchasing Administrator

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-17-038

Electric Power Pole Mitigation Project

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms to perform mitigation of the CUC power distribution system through the replacement of 374 wood poles to concrete poles in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The project entails the replacement of 103 units of 35-foot and 271 units of 40-foot wood poles to concrete poles and the assembly of electrical hardware. The work site is to take place across CUC's power grid.

This project is funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from the CUC and FEMA.

*CUC requires the Project to be completed in **174 calendar days** from date of award of contract.*

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **August 15, 2017 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-038, Electric Power Pole Mitigation Project", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on August 29, 2017** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered Prospective Bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on August 18, 2017** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Administrator- via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Adrian Reyes, CUC Power Jr. Electrical Engineer – via email address adrian.reyes@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC Purchasing Assistant-via email address marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and to waive any defects in said bid documents, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN, JR.
Purchasing Administrator

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd floor-Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW-17-IFB-026

TUTURAM ROAD AND DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT, SAIPAN

Governor Ralph Dlg. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for **Tuturam Road and Drainage Improvement Project**, Saipan Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on or after **August 16, 2017** at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of **One Hundred Dollars ($100.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Teasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division.

All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations currently in effect."

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITUES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **September 1, 2017, 9:00 a.m. local time** at Project Site, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **September 15, 2017** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

Prospective bidders should examine and review the invitation for bids with care. If it should appear to a prospective bidder that the performance of the work under the contract or any of the matters relative thereto is not sufficiently described or explained in the invitation for bids, or that any discrepancy exists between different parts of the invitation for bids, or that full intent of the invitation for bids is not clear, then the prospective bidder shall submit a written request for clarification no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening at 4:30 pm to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.

The prospective bidder shall examine carefully the site of the proposed work and the invitation for bids before submitting a bid.

The Contracting Officer (CO) may, upon recommendation of the Contracting Officer's Technical Representative (COTR), issue an addendum notifying all prospective bidders known to have received an invitation for bids, or if issued after the deadline for submission of the notice of intention to bid, to those persons who submitted such notice, of any changes to the invitation for bids. The Department of Public Works will make every reasonable attempt to notify all persons who obtained the invitation for bids from the Technical Services Division by telephone to pick up the addendum or if the CO chooses, the addendum may be mailed or delivered personally or by facsimile machine. If the bid proposal requires the acknowledgment of addenda, the prospective bidder shall indicate the date of each addendum in the space provided. **It shall be the prospective bidder's responsibility to confirm the existence of any addendum by telephoning the COTR at (670) 234-9828/9838 no later than ten (10) Calendar days before the scheduled bid opening.**

Sealed bids must be marked **"DPW-17-IFB-026"**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, no later than **10:00 a.m. local time September 20, 2017.** Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **10:00 a.m. local time, September 20, 2017,** and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **September 20, 2017** and the BID documents must be received at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **September 29, 2017**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, at **10:00 a.m. local time, October 4, 2017.** However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at **10:30 a.m. local time, on September 20, 2017.**

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (**$25,000.00**) a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. **Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashiers check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Surety requiring approval of the Attorney General must be pre-approved prior to bid submission.** Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations §70-30.3-245. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00. Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

a) A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
b) A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceed the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

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4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is **One Hundred Eighty (180) calendar days** upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages for delays beyond the established completion date will be assessed at the rate of **Three Hundred (US$300.00)** for each and every day the work is delayed beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

JAMES A. ADA
Secretary of Public Works

HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director of Procurement & Supply

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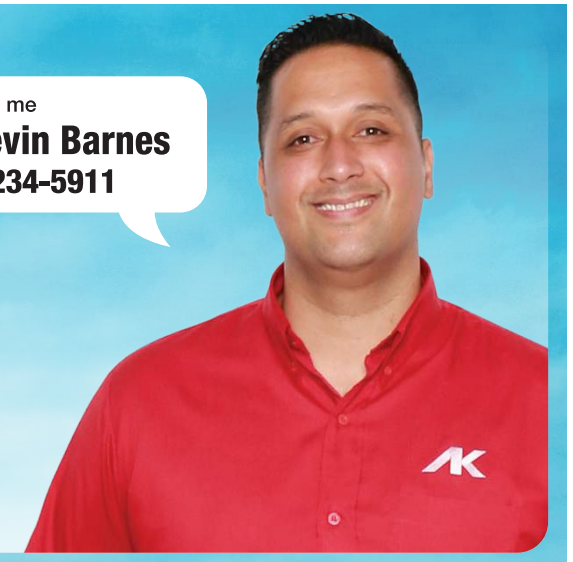

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EDITORIAL

Fiery rhetoric on North Korea courts disaster

President Donald Trump's habit of using Twitter and interviews to jab at his political adversaries or at fellow Republicans he finds wanting has never seemed close to constructive. Trump's contempt for political norms certainly helped get him elected and probably still pleases his millions of followers. But since he took office in January, it's difficult to find a single issue where Trump's combativeness, especially on Twitter, has paid much of a dividend.

Now Trump's default instinct to escalate confrontations with those who oppose him threatens disaster. His week of swapping potshots with nuclear-armed North Korea so unnerved the world that its stocks tumbled nearly $1 trillion. Yet Trump didn't stop. Friday, he warned Pyongyang it would "regret it fast" if it makes one more threat against Guam, the Pacific island that is a U.S. territory.

Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, among others, depicts North Korean dictator Kim Jong Un as rational and conventionally motivated _ as trying to leverage his nation's nuclear arsenal and improved missile technology into significant concessions from the United States, South Korea and Pyongyang's other neighbors. But in 2015, a United Nations Security Council diplomat compared Kim to "a crazed 5-year-old" in a profile in The New Yorker that dubbed him a "dangerously erratic young man."

Of course, Trump himself has also proven erratic, if not dangerously so, at least yet. The idea that a machismo-laced rhetorical squabble between two erratic men could escalate into violence is hardly far-fetched. While East Asia foreign policy expert Frank Jannuzi is among those who sees Kim as rational, he said earlier this year that he believes the only chance that North Korea would launch a suicidal attack against the United States was if Kim feared a pre-emptive attack against him _ an unlikely scenario that Trump has stunningly made seem less than impossible in recent days.

Even after North Korea's successful recent tests, there are still reasons to wonder whether it would be able to hit the U.S. with a nuclear-tipped intercontinental ballistic missile, so it's possible to believe that the United States might escape a war with little damage. But it is difficult to imagine a scenario in which hundreds of thousands, perhaps millions, of South Koreans don't perish in such a conflict. The carnage wouldn't even necessarily come from nuclear weapons. Nearly half of the U.S. ally's 51 million people live within 50 miles of the North Korean borders, where Kim has stationed up to 8,000 rocket launchers and artillery cannons able to launch up to 300,000 rounds within the first hour of a war. This is why containment of the Pyongyang nuclear threat remains by far the best U.S. option.

On Friday, another nuclear-armed superpower took a constructive course to try to de-escalate tensions. China

See FIERY on Next Page

Angry white men are fueling racial violence

By DAHLEEN GLANTON
Chicago Tribune

Dahleen Glanton is a columnist for the Chicago Tribune. *Readers may email her at dglanton@chicagotribune.com.*

Unlike the bigoted protesters in the 1960s, the demonstrators in Charlottesville, Va., did not wear hoods. On Saturday, we saw their faces clearly. And they were angry white men.

If we are to get to the root of the recent escalation of confrontational bigotry in America, we must acknowledge who is fueling it. That is the growing demographic of insecure white males who blame their social and economic failures on everyone but themselves.

Demonstrations like the one this weekend represent the false notion that white men are losing the unfair advantage they have enjoyed in America since its founding.

The fear that African-Americans would somehow gain economic parity with white men has long been one of the driving forces behind bigotry in our country. Today, that bigotry has been expanded into a cultural war against immigrants—a fight that is largely defined by education or more specifically, the lack of it.

Americans who thought that racism and bigotry would simply die out with the aging population must be sorely disappointed. Young men are largely driving the modern hate groups, and their numbers have escalated in the last two years.

They are people like Dylann Roof, who was 21 when he killed nine African-American parishioners during a prayer service in Charleston, S.C. And James Alex Fields Jr., 20, who is accused of plowing his car into a crowd of anti-rally protesters Saturday, killing a woman and injuring at least 19 people.

While young men are at the forefront of the violent encounters, they are by no means the only perpetrators of hate. Just as it was nearly a half-century ago, there are many more bigoted sympathizers who stand with them in spirit, if not in person.

They are Donald Trump's people. And he knows it.

Regardless of how we might feel about former Ku Klux Klan grand wizard David Duke, he is right in telling Trump to take a look in the mirror and recognize that it was white Americans who put him in office.

It wasn't every white American, though. It was specific white voters.

Trump won the largest margin of white voters without a college degree in nearly four decades. Two-thirds, or 67 percent, of non-college whites supported him, compared with 28 percent who supported Hillary Clinton, according to the Pew Research Center.

Let's break those numbers down by the sexes. According to exit polls, 71 percent of white men without a college degree voted for Trump. And 61 percent of white women without a college degree supported him.

These voters represent the core of red state America. In rural swing states like Ohio, Pennsylvania, Michigan and Wisconsin, they are the ones responsible for pushing Trump across the finish line.

By no means should we assume that every uneducated or undereducated white Trump supporter would join a hate group or even become a sympathizer. Most of them likely were appalled by the violent images that came out of Charlottesville. Neither should we think that well-educated whites can't buy into the white supremacist argument that America has somehow been stolen and needs to be brought back to where it belongs. Indeed, there has been a recent movement to recruit on college campuses.

But the people who are most likely to be swayed by the bigoted rhetoric of white nationalist, neo-Nazi and armed "Patriot" groups certainly can be found among Trump's low-income, less educated supporters. They are among those who tend to feel most vulnerable to the changing demographics.

It is clear why Trump refused to denounce these groups when he addressed the Charlottesville violence. People who fear that the America that was created to advance the prosperity of white men is being taken away are a crucial part of his base.

And with recent polls showing that he is losing support among his most loyal supporters, Trump cannot afford to turn on them.

Much of what he has tried to accomplish so far in the presidency has been for this group of people. They are the ones who want a wall built at the Mexican border and support a ban on Muslim immigrants entering the United States.

They hate the idea of sanctuary cities and agree with Trump that law and order can best be achieved in local communities by "getting tough," which seems to mean locking up black people and throwing away the key.

They are the reason Trump surrounded himself with people like Steve Bannon, his chief strategist, and Jeff Sessions, his attorney general—men with documented biases toward immigration and civil rights.

On Saturday, Trump chose to dilute what could have been the most heroic speech of his presidency by adding "on many sides" to his weak condemnation of the violence in Charlottesville. And he did it to appease this important part of his base.

So insecure white men can gather around a statue of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee while carrying Tiki torches, use their cars to run people down and expose their hatred without hiding behind a mask.

They may think they lost ground under previous administrations, but as long as Trump is president, they have nothing to fear.

The best 'ism' to explain our time

By ROBERT ZARETSKY
Los Angeles Times

Robert Zaretsky teaches at the University of Houston and is finishing a book on Catherine the Great and the French Enlightenment. He wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.

Surrealism is celebrating its 100th birthday this year. The poet Guillaume Apollinaire coined the term to describe his play "Les Mamelles de Tiresias" (The Teats of Tiresias), which opened in a small Parisian theater in 1917. Beginning with an actress removing her breasts and ending early with an unscripted riot—featuring a pistol-flailing audience member—the play launched a movement that long convulsed French art and politics.

The centenary arrives in a surreal news environment. Indeed, among the dozens of isms used to explain the Trump presidency—from isolationism and pluto-populism to narcissism and authoritarianism—none does a better job than surrealism in capturing the current mood.

Andre Breton, the "Pope of Surrealism," defined it as a "psychic automatism in its pure state ... exempt from any moral concern." In his First Manifesto of Surrealism, Breton railed against rationalism and the "reign of logic." Clarity and coherence lost bigly to the tumult of unconscious desires, while civility and courtesy were for bourgeois losers. Upping the ante in his Second Manifesto, he claimed the simplest Surrealist act "consists of dashing down into the street, pistol in hand, and firing blindly, as fast as you can pull the trigger, into the crowd."

Unarmed Surrealists were content to brandish their ids. What was once the stuff of repression was now ripe for expression. Everything that welled up into the conscious mind flowed across paper and canvas. The true Surrealist turns his mind into a "receptacle," refusing to "favor one group of words over another." Instead, it is "up to the miraculous equivalent to intervene."

Or not. As a sober reader finds, most Surrealist literature is unreadable. The precursor to Surrealism, the Romanian Tristan Tzara, famously composed poems by cutting words from a newspaper, tossing them into a bag, pulling them out and reciting them one by one. The result, Tzara declared, "will resemble you." (Perhaps that's true if you happen to be crashed on your kitchen floor, sleeping off an all-night bender.) As for Breton, he favored "automatic writing" by becoming a "recording machine" for his unconscious. The final product, he beamed, shines by its "extreme degree of immediate absurdity."

Trumpian word salads bear the surrealist seal of absurdity. In Exquisite Corpse—a Surrealist exercise aimed at unleashing the unconscious—you write a word on a piece of paper, pass it to your neighbor who jots a second word without looking at the first word, and so on. This led to sentences like "The exquisite/corpse/shall drink/the new/wine." Trump's gift of free association—"His one problem is he didn't go to Russia that night because he had extracurricular activities, and they froze to death"—allows him to play a solitaire variation of the game.

A French translator recently marveled that Trump seems to have "thematic clouds in his head that he would pick from with no need of a logical thread to link them." This is true not just of his speech, but also of his governing strategy.

Igniting a reaction similar to those following Marcel Duchamp entering a urinal at an art show, Trump has exhibited his Surrealist aesthetic in bureaucratic Washington. But he subverts ready-made expectations instead of ready-made objects. With a Surrealist flair for showmanship worthy of Salvador Dali, he randomly pairs titles and individuals. Thus, his son-in-law, a New York real estate developer, plays Middle East envoy one day, opioid crisis czar the next. Trump's claim that if Jared Kushner cannot bring peace to the Middle East, no one can expresses the Surrealist conviction that where reason and strategy have failed, unreason and whim will prevail.

The same aesthetic lies behind—or, rather, below—the Wall. Its failure to make economic, strategic or diplomatic sense is not beside the point; it is the point. Its raison d'etre is to shock the political establishment and to give shape to what, until now, had been the repressed desires of Trump's base. Think of it not as a real security measure, but as a virtual sculpture that will allow its audience to touch, and not just talk about their phobias. Like a Surrealist object, the Wall is a shape-shifter—opaque or transparent, continuous or discontinuous, topped with barbed wire or solar panels—and expresses the Surrealist values of excess and extravagance, aggression and transgression.

In the end, Trumpism, like Surrealism, seeks to force reality to conform to individual desires, no matter how illicit, illegal or simply outrageous. This might work aesthetically, even financially—just ask Dali, whose name Breton turned into the anagram Avida Dollars—and, it seems, politically. But, one can hope, only in the short term.

Eventually, Surrealism's revolt against the "reality-based community" ended with a whimper, with its art relegated to post-dinner games and dorm room posters. One day, perhaps, politicians will look back on Trumpism in the same dismissive way.

Madness could finally end this crisis

By RUSSELL KOROBKIN
Los Angeles Times

Russell Korobkin, a professor of law at UCLA, is writing The Ultimatum Game: The Science and Strategy of Negotiation. *He wrote this for the* Los Angeles Times.

Donald Trump is a narcissistic, short-tempered, uninformed, unpredictable bully. In almost every context, this combination of traits is exactly what you would not want in a president of the United States. But one exception might be in dealing with Kim Jong Un and North Korea.

As I tell students in my negotiation class, in hard-nosed, brass-knuckles bargaining, the crazy person wins because he forces a rational counterpart to make concessions in order to avoid mutual disaster. And no one does crazy like Trump.

So-called normal American administrations have been outfoxed by the Kim family for decades. The reclusive leaders of the Hermit Kingdom have known that the only thing the U.S. can do to prevent them from developing nuclear weapons and long-range ballistic missiles is to start a war that would devastate the Korean peninsula. That option was, and is, so bad that the Kims have calculated that they could bluster, stall, break agreements and generally thumb their noses at the West with no risk of serious consequences.

Sure, the United States can organize economic sanctions, but the Kims have never cared if their people starved by the millions, just as long as there was enough money to feed the military and finance weapons programs. North Korea is certainly displeased with the latest United Nations sanctions regime, which is expected to reduce its exports by a third, but there is almost no chance this will be painful enough to convince Kim to give up his warheads. The sanctions will still permit North Korea to earn plenty of hard currency trading in what isn't forbidden by the U.N. and by sending guest workers to labor abroad.

The only way to stop North Korea's march toward deliverable nuclear weapons, short of a blood-bath, would be for China to embargo trade with and economic support of Pyongyang, effectively starving Kim's military. But while China doesn't love the idea of a nuclear North Korea, it has preferred that to the risk of a destabilized regime perched on its border.

North Korea's threat to take "physical action" and retaliate "thousands of times over" for the latest sanctions is bluster typical for that country's propaganda ministry. But Trump's "fire and fury" rejoinder is in sharp contrast to America's usual careful diplomatic language. Military and foreign affairs experts in the West have uniformly criticized Trump. When crazy goes toe to toe with crazy, escalation can potentially get out of hand and lead to war. North Korea has already raised the ante by specifically threatening to shoot missiles near Guam, which could trigger an American response.

But the obvious danger of Trump facing off with Kim is precisely why rational Chinese leaders might reassess their nation's long-standing approach and intervene more decisively. If Beijing continues to allow Kim's pariah state to develop its nuclear capabilities, two events might occur that never before seemed likely. First, the United States might preemptively attack North Korea's nuclear weapons facilities, starting a conventional or even nuclear war along the 38th parallel. Trump's generals will probably prevent this from happening, but given the president's daily antics, who could possibly believe an attack is impossible? Second, fearing increasing unpredictability in Washington, Japan or South Korea could decide to develop its own nuclear deterrent rather than continuing to rely solely on American protection.

Either a hot war or nuclear proliferation in its backyard would be much worse for China than any risks it might run by putting an end to Kim's nuclear ambitions. Its best strategy now is to finally take serious action against Pyongyang, completely shutting off of all commerce, including oil shipments, until North Korea gives up its nuclear program. In return, China can demand that the United States, along with South Korea and Japan, enter a treaty promising not to seek regime change that could threaten the existence of the Kim dynasty.

A petulant, erratic North Korea has successfully defied the West for decades. A bombastic response from an equally petulant and erratic President Trump is both scary and dangerous, but it might just succeed where prior, rational American administrations have failed.

FIERY

From Page 10

used its state-owned newspaper to warn North Korea that it would be on its own if it attacked the United States and to say, although the nature of the support wasn't specified, that Beijing would support North Korea if the U.S. attacked.

This may help persuade Pyongyang to stand down. Americans need someone _ anyone _ to get President Trump to stand down. The world suddenly feels like it is in a far more dangerous place.

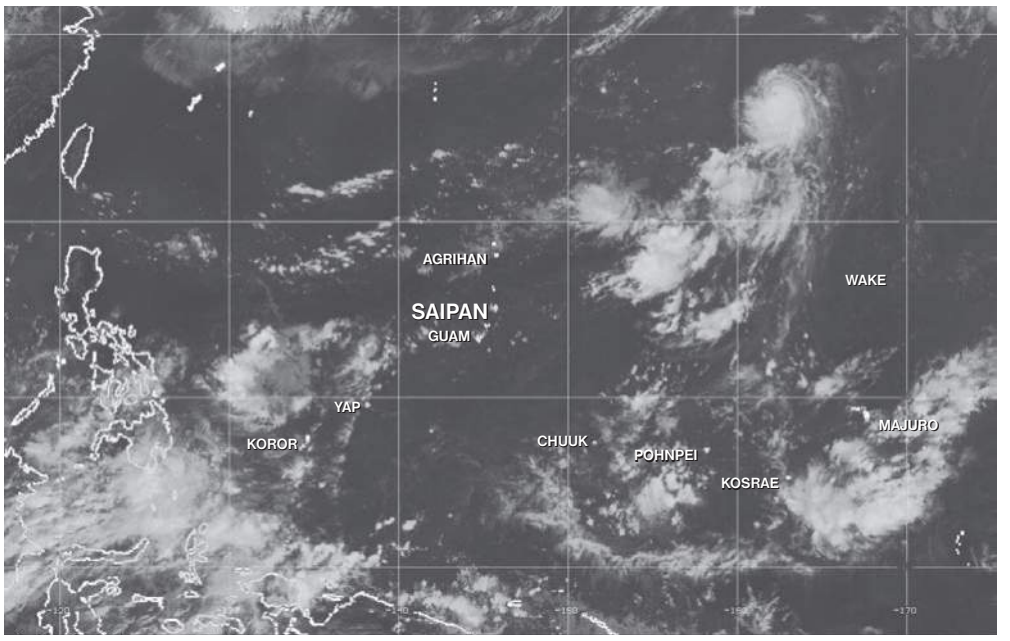
(c)2017 *The San Diego Union-Tribune*

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Light and variable winds.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Light and variable winds.	Mostly cloudy. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Partly cloudy. Isolated showers.
▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲89° ▼78°	▲89° ▼78°	▲90° ▼79°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:44 AM, TUESDAY, AUGUST 15, 2017
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

An overall unsettled pattern is likely for the Marianas over the next week. Light south winds over the next couple of days will be conducive to island thunderstorms. Model guidance continues to indicate the likelihood of scattered showers across the islands Friday, becoming isolated again by Saturday. Therefore, increased shower coverage to scattered for Friday and Friday night. Otherwise, no major changes to the inherited forecast.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Palau	Partly Cloudy	84° / 77°
Yap	Partly Cloudy	87° / 78°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	88° / 80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	87° / 77°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	87° / 77°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	86° / 80°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Rain	61° / 54°
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	84° / 70°
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	90° / 82°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	87° / 75°
London	Partly Cloudy	72° / 61°
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	75° / 62°
Manila	Thunderstorms	91° / 81°
Melbourne	Showers	57° / 45°
Miami	Thunderstorms	88° / 82°
New York	Mostly Sunny	90° / 70°
Osaka	Thunderstorms	91° / 79°
Paris	Mostly Sunny	79° / 64°
Busan	Showers	84° / 77°
Rome	Mostly Sunny	97° / 72°
Salem	Thunderstorms	91° / 75°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	66° / 56°
Seoul	Thunderstorms	82° / 72°
Tokyo	Cloudy	81° / 72°
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	89° / 74°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
1:13 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.89
8:36 AM	LOW TIDE	0.08
3:25 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.54
8:28 PM	LOW TIDE	1.03

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:02 AM	6:39 PM
Thursday	6:02 AM	6:39 PM
Friday	6:02 AM	6:38 PM
Saturday	6:03 AM	6:38 PM
Sunday	6:03 AM	6:37 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	12:20 AM	1:23 PM	-
Thursday	1:14 AM	2:24 PM	-
Friday	2:11 AM	3:24 PM	-
Saturday	3:10 AM	4:23 PM	-
Sunday	4:11 AM	5:20 PM	-

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 15, 2017

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	1:35am	5:20am	2, 3, 4
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
TW308	2:35am	6:20am	6, 7
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily
LJ652	4:45am	8:35am	Daily
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily
ZE584	4:00pm	8:05pm	1, 3, 5
ZE584	4:35pm	8:15pm	2, 4, 6, 7
ZE582	4:45pm	8:35pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 7
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7
7C3451	4:00am	7:05am	4, 5

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	5:20am	8:00am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:00am	10:25am	1
JD396	4:50pm	8:15pm	4

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:15pm	7:00pm	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	8:55am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:00am	1, 2, 4, 6via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:15am	3, 5, 7 via GUM
PR1572	4:40am	6:45am	1, 4
UA6391/183	1:30pm	8:50pm	5 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	9:10pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/193	1:30pm	10:40pm	5 via Rota-GUM-ROR
UA6390/183	2:20pm	8:50pm	2 via GUM
UA6390/183	2:20pm	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA6390/193	2:20pm	10:40pm	2 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	2:00am	5:00am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:40am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	4:40am	8:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
UA6391/159	1:30pm	9:50pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM
UA6390/159	2:20pm	9:50pm	3, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

ZE583	9:10am	2:40pm	1, 3, 5
7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
ZE583	10:05am	3:35pm	2, 4, 6, 7
ZE581	10:10am	3:55pm	Daily
TW307	7:05pm	12:35am+1	1, 2, 3
OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
TW307	8:05pm	1:35am+1	5, 6
OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily
LJ651	10:00pm	3:30am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:00pm	2:10am+1	4
OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 6
7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	3, 6, 7

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:10am	3:30pm	4
JD395	10:05pm	5:30am+1	7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:25pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:20am	2:50pm	Daily

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR1571	9:20pm	3:40am+1	3, 7
UA192/6395	9:45pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA184/6395	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
PR110/UA6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA184/6395	11:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UO42	4:50pm	12:05am+1	2, 6
HX076	5:20pm	12:30am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:05pm	1:10am+1	1
UO42	6:10pm	1:00am+1	3
UO42	6:10pm	1:10am+1	4
UO42	6:40pm	2:00am+1	7
UA116/6395	10:45pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, ZE Eastar Jet, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

COURTESY CALL

The Saipan Awaodori Team pays a courtesy call on Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Christopher A. Concepcion, center back row, at the MVA office on Aug. 10, 2017. On Aug. 25-27, 2017, the team will participate in the Koenji Awaodori Festival, one of the largest annual Awaodori festivals in Japan.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

DPW tops territories in FHWA financial management

The CNMI Department of Public Works has been commended for managing inactive Federal Highway Administration projects in fiscal year 2017.

The Federal Highway Administration's Hawaii Federal Aid Division lauded the CNMI for attaining a minimal percentage rating of 0.1 percent for inactive obligations.

In contrast, the ratings for Guam and American Samoa stood at 14.9 and 2.5 percent, respectively.

The performance indicator of 0.1 percent for the CNMI is well below the expected percentage of inactive obligations, targeted at 2 percent nationally.

DPW receives territorial funding from the Federal Highway Administration, or FHWA, for transportation improvement projects. To improve efficiency in the administration of highway programs, the department is required to review expenditure activities on FHWA funded projects. Projects without active charges or expenditures for 12 months are flagged as inactive. State and territory recipients of FHWA funds are expected to report inactive projects as being within the allowable 2 percent of the total annual federal obligation received.

States and territories with greater than 2 percent of the total annual federal aid obligation authority authorized on projects with 12 months of inactive charging may have federal funds reduced, may withhold funding or divert funding to other territories, or may withhold approval of new federal funds. ***(DPW-TSD, Highway)***

Register for NMC's fall semester at Thursday information session

Northern Marianas College is inviting individuals who are interested in furthering their education or advancing their professional careers to attend its information session on Thursday, Aug. 17, 2017.

The information session is open to all prospective students and community members. The session, which will be held from 5:30pm to 6:30pm in Room D-1 at the college's As Terlaje campus, will also allow participants to register for classes immediately after the event.

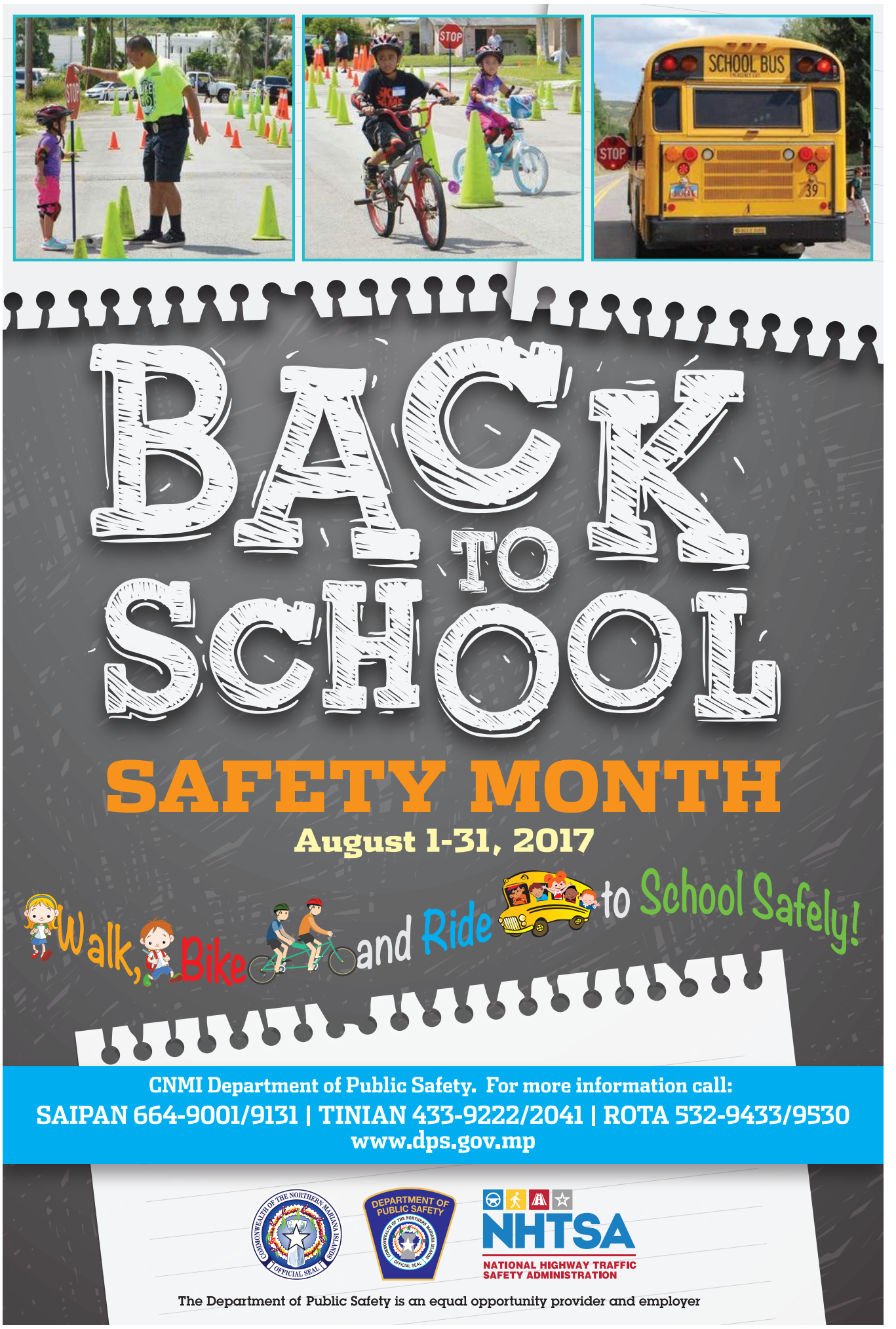
The topics that will be discussed include the college's degree programs, Prior Learning Assessment program, financial aid, and other initiatives.

Participants will also qualify to have their application fee and their placement test fees waived for the fall 2017 semester, a savings of about $75.

NMC faculty, staff, and students from the different degree programs at NMC, as well as Student Services representatives from counseling, financial aid, and admissions, will be on hand to answer questions.

NMC offers several degree and certificate programs, including a bachelor of science degree in education (emphasis in elementary education, early childhood education, special education, or rehabilitation and human services), bachelor of science degree in business management; associate degrees in business administration (emphasis in accounting, business management, or computer applications), liberal arts (emphasis in education, health and physical education, and social work), nursing, natural resources management, criminal justice, and hospitality management.

For more information about the information session and/or applying to NMC, contact the Office of Admissions & Records at (670) 237-6770, email oar@marianas.edu or visit www.marianas.edu. ***(PR)***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ESGR Week

A group photo is taken yesterday during the proclamation signing that designated the week of Aug. 13-19 as Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Week.

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, center left, and Lt. Gov. Victor B. Hocog at the Office of the Governor conference room sign the proclamation designating Aug. 13-19 as Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Week

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

Reserve soldiers at the Office of the Governor conference room are recognized during the proclamation designating Aug. 13-19 as Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Week.

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

David Sablan, left, Guam-NMI chair of the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, presents Victorino Borja with The Patriotic Employer award yesterday during the ESGR luncheon at the Aqua Resort Club.

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

Public School System employees pose for a picture with their awards during the ESGR luncheon at the Aqua Resort Club.

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

David Sablan, left, Guam-NMI chair of the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, presents Jonas Barcinas with The Patriotic Employer Award yesterday at an ESGR luncheon at the Aqua Resort Club.

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

David Sablan, right, Guam-NMI chair of the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, presents Christine Tudela with The Patriotic Employer award yesterday during the ESGR lunch at the Aqua Resort Club.

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

Simada Iramk from the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. is presented with The Patriotic Employer Award by David Sablan, right, Guam-NMI chair of the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, yesterday during the ESGR luncheon at the Aqua Resort Club.

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

Nation

Charlottesville driver previously accused of beating mother

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. (AP)—The driver charged with killing a woman at a white nationalist rally in Charlottesville was previously accused of beating his mother and threatening her with a knife, according to police records released Monday.

Samantha Bloom, who is disabled and uses a wheelchair, repeatedly called police about her son, James Alex Fields Jr., in 2010 and 2011, telling officers he was on medication to control his temper, transcripts from 911 calls show.

Fields, 20, is accused of ramming his car into a crowd of counter-protesters on Saturday in Charlottesville, killing 32-year-old Heather Heyer.

Fields, described by a former high school teacher as an admirer of Adolf Hitler and Nazi Germany, was charged with second-degree murder.

A judge denied him bail Monday after the public defender's office said it couldn't represent him because a relative of someone in the office was injured in Saturday's protest.

Fields was assigned a local attorney, and another hearing was set for Aug. 25.

Records show that Fields was arrested and put in juvenile detention after his mother reported in 2011 that he stood behind her wielding a 12-inch knife.

In another incident in 2010, she said her son smacked her in the head and locked her in the bathroom after she told him to stop playing video games. There was no indication in the records that he was arrested.

Also Monday, a former classmate told The Associated Press that on a school trip to Europe in 2015, a teenage Fields couldn't stand the French and said he only went on the trip so that he could visit "the Fatherland"—Germany.

AP

In this Saturday, Aug. 12, 2017 photo, responders work with victims at the scene where a man identified by police as James Alex Fields Jr., plowed a car into a crowd of people who had gathered to protest a white supremacist rally earlier in the day, in Charlottesville, Va.

"He just really laid on about the French being lower than us and inferior to us," said Keegan McGrath.

McGrath, now 18, said he challenged Fields on his beliefs, and the animosity between them grew so heated that it came to a boil at dinner on their second day. He said he went home after three or four days because he couldn't handle being in a room with Fields.

The incident shocked McGrath because he had been in German class with Fields for two unremarkable years.

"He was just a normal dude" most of the time, though he occasionally made "dark" jokes that put his class on edge, including one "offhand joke" about the Holocaust, McGrath said.

McGrath said Fields was no outcast: "He had friends. He had people who would chat with him."

Meanwhile, under pressure to speak out more forcefully, President Donald Trump condemned Ku Klux Klan members, neo-Nazis and white supremacists who take part in violence as "criminals and thugs" and declared that "racism is evil."

Trump's initial failure on Saturday to denounce the groups by name, and his blaming of the violence on "many sides," prompted criticism from fellow Republicans as well as Democrats.

A teacher who taught Fields in high school said Sunday that Fields was fascinated with Nazism, idolized Hitler, and had been singled out in the ninth grade by officials at Randall K. Cooper High School in Union, Kentucky, for his "deeply held, radical" convictions on race.

Police: 16 immigrants locked inside rig at Texas truck stop

EDINBURG, Texas (AP)—Police in Texas acting on a tip found 16 immigrants locked inside a tractor-trailer parked at a gas station about 20 miles (30 kilometers) from the border with Mexico, less than a month after the deaths of 10 people who were packed in a hot truck in San Antonio.

Edinburg Assistant Police Chief Oscar Trevino says the immigrants may have been locked inside the 18-wheeler in Edinburg for at least eight hours before being freed by officers late Sunday morning. He had earlier said there were 17 immigrants locked in the tractor-trailer before correcting the number on Monday to 16.

Trevino said none of the people inside the tractor-trailer required medical attention. He said they were hungry and thirsty and were given food and water at the scene.

Those found locked in the tractor-trailer included eight people from El Salvador, six from Mexico and two from Romania, said Manuel Padilla, U.S. Customs and Border Protection's Border Patrol sector chief for the Rio Grande Valley at Texas' southernmost point.

A man and woman who Trevino said are Cuban nationals were in charge of the rig and have been detained.

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement spokeswoman Nina Pruneda said no one has been charged yet in connection with the case but that the agency is working with state and local officials and talking to witnesses.

The discovery comes three weeks after 10 people died who were in a sweltering rig parked at a Walmart in San Antonio. Immigration officials say survivors estimated 100 people had been packed into the back of the 18-wheeler at one point. Officials said 39 people were inside when rescuers arrived, and the rest either escaped or hitched rides to their next destination. Nearly 20 of those rescued from the rig were hospitalized in dire condition, many suffering from extreme dehydration and heatstroke. The driver of that rig remains in federal custody, charged with illegally transporting immigrants for financial gain, resulting in death.

On Sunday, Edinburg police went to the gas station, a popular stopover for commercial truck drivers traveling through the region, after receiving an anonymous call from someone saying a relative was trapped inside the tractor-trailer. Officers began knocking on the sides of trailers parked at the station and eventually received return knocks from the one holding the immigrants, police said.

Protesters topple Confederate statue in North Carolina

DURHAM, N.C. (AP)—Protesters in North Carolina toppled a nearly century-old statue of a Confederate soldier Monday at a rally against racism.

Activists in Durham brought a ladder up to the statue and used a rope to pull down the Confederate Soldiers Monument that was dedicated in 1924. A diverse crowd of dozens cheered as the statue of a soldier holding a rifle fell to the ground in front of an old courthouse building that now houses local government offices.

Seconds after the monument fell, protesters began kicking the crumpled bronze monument.

"I was a little bit shocked people could come here and come together like that," said Isaiah Wallace, who is black.

Wallace said he watched as others toppled the statue. He hopes other Confederate symbols elsewhere will follow.

"I feel like this is going to send shockwaves through the country and hopefully they can bring down other racist symbols," he said.

The Durham protest was in response to a white nationalist rally held in Charlottesville, Virginia, over the weekend. Authorities say one woman was killed Saturday after one of the white nationalists drove his car into a group of peaceful counter-protesters.

Although the violence in Virginia has prompted fresh talk by government officials about bringing down symbols of the Confederacy around the South, North Carolina has a law protecting them. The 2015 law prevents removing such monuments on public property without permission from state officials.

In response to the statue in Durham being torn down, Democratic North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper tweeted: "The racism and deadly violence in Charlottesville is unacceptable but there is a better way to remove these monuments."

After the statue fell, several dozen protesters congregated on the street in front of the old courthouse. Some took pictures standing or sitting on the toppled soldier, in front of a pedestal inscribed with the words "In Memory of the Boys Who Wore The Gray." Police cruisers blocked off the street, and officers looked on—some filming. As it got dark, rally participants began to peacefully disperse.

Asia

Both Korean leaders, US signal turn to diplomacy amid crisis

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—Even as North Korea presented leader Kim Jong Un with plans to launch missiles into waters near Guam and "wring the windpipes of the Yankees," both Koreas and the United States signaled their willingness to avert a deepening crisis Tuesday, with each suggesting a path toward negotiations.

The tentative interest in diplomacy follows unusually combative threats between President Donald Trump and North Korea amid worries that Pyongyang is nearing its long-sought goal of accurately being able to send a nuclear missile to the U.S. mainland. Next week's start of U.S.-South Korean military exercises that enrage the North each year make it unclear, however, if diplomacy will prevail.

During an inspection of the North Korean army's Strategic Forces, which handles the missile program, Kim praised the military for drawing up a "close and careful plan" and said he would watch the "foolish and stupid conduct of the Yankees" a little more before deciding whether to order the missile test, the North's state-run Korean Central News Agency said. Kim appeared in photos sitting at a table with a large map marked by a straight line between what appeared to be northeastern North Korea and Guam, and passing over Japan—apparently showing the missiles' flight route.

The missile plans were previously announced, and Kim said North Korea would conduct the launches if the "Yankees persist in their extremely dangerous reckless actions on the Korean Peninsula and its vicinity" and that the United States should "think reasonably and judge properly" to avoid shaming itself, the news agency said.

AP

This image made from video of an Aug. 14, 2017, still image broadcast in a news bulletin on Tuesday, Aug. 15, 2017, by North Korea's KRT shows North Korean leader Kim Jong Un receiving a briefing in Pyongyang.

Lobbing missiles toward Guam, a major U.S. military hub in the Pacific, would be a deeply provocative act from the U.S. perspective, and a miscalculation on either side could lead to a military clash. U.S. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis said the United Sates would take out any such missile seen to be heading for American soil and declared any such North Korean attack could mean war.

Kim's comments, however, with their conditional tone, seemed to hold out the possibility that friction could ease if the United States made some sort of gesture that Pyongyang considered a move to back away from previous "extremely dangerous reckless actions." This might be difficult as the United States and South Korea prepare for their military drills next week.

North Korea plans Guam strike
North Korea has announced plans to launch four ballistic missiles toward the U.S. Pacific territory of Guam, a major military hub and home to U.S. bombers.
Anderson Air Force Base
Dededo
Land area: 217 square miles
5 km
5 miles
Tamuning
Population: 161,000 (2016 est.)
International Airport
Naval Base Guam
Yona
Pago Bay
Political status: Self-governing, organized, unincorporated territory of the United States with one legislative house
U.S. Naval Magazine
GUAM
• US military bases cover about a quarter of the island. About 7,000 personnel are based there
Pyga Beach
DETAIL AREA
Source: britannica.com, BBC, AP
Graphic: Staff, Tribune News Service

South Korean President Moon Jae-in, meanwhile, a liberal who favors engagement with the North, urged North Korea to stop provocations and to commit to talks over its nuclear weapons program.

Moon, in a televised speech Tuesday on the anniversary of the end of World War II and the Korean Peninsula's liberation from Japanese colonial rule, said that Seoul and Washington agree that the crisis over the North's nuclear program should "absolutely be solved peacefully," and that no U.S. military action on the Korean Peninsula could be taken without Seoul's consent.

Moon says solving the crisis could begin with freezing the North's nuclear weapons program, and the North could create conditions for talks by stopping nuclear and missile tests.

Monsoon flooding kills at least 173 across South Asia

KUNAULI, Nepal (AP)—Heavy monsoon rains have unleashed landslides and floods that killed at least 173 people in recent days and displaced millions more across northern India, southern Nepal and Bangladesh. Officials said Monday that they were still trying to determine the scale of the disaster, as weather forecasters predicted more rain for some areas and casualties were reported in multiple locations across the Himalayan foothills of South Asia.

Nepalese police were searching Monday for scores of people reported missing after rivers burst their banks and killed at least 80, according to police spokesman Pushkar Karki.

"The death toll may go up further as reports come in from remote areas," Karki said.

Many of those killed had drowned or been caught in collapsed houses or under toppled trees.

The floods destroyed key rice crops in Nepal and drove thousands of farmers and their families to take refuge in schools or tents on higher ground, as water submerged roads and cut transport to affected areas. Near the Nepalese village of Kunauli, on the border with India, people were sheltering in tents pitched along the main highway after the land on both sides became inundated. Cows and buffalo meandered between the tents, and poisonous snakes slithered through the water.

Electricity and cellular phone services were cut off. Soldiers passed out clean water, grain and rice, which people were cooking on small, kerosene-fueled stoves. But aid workers said some did not have enough food or water.

"The heavy rains hit at one of the worst times, shortly after farmers planted their rice crop," Sumnima Shrestha, a spokeswoman for the U.S.-based anti-poverty charity Heifer International, said in a statement. "Making matters worse, large numbers of livestock have been swept away in the flash flooding."

Across Nepal's southern border, flooding swamped seven districts in the Indian state of Bihar and left more than half a million people homeless. Officials said two people had also died.

Landslides and flooding are common across South Asia during the summer monsoon season, and have become more dangerous thanks to widespread deforestation and poor urban planning that makes it harder for the land to absorb rainfall.

Bangladesh was bracing for worse flooding Monday, as weather forecasters predicted more rain. At least 18 major rivers were flowing at dangerously high levels, according to the state-run Flood Forecasting and Warning Center.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Philippines: 21 alleged drug offenders killed in single day

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine police say simultaneous anti-drug operations in a northern province have left 21 alleged drug offenders dead. Officials say it is the highest death toll in a single day since President Rodrigo Duterte launched his 'war on drugs' in July last year. Senior Superintendent Romeo M. Caramat Jr. said Tuesday that operations in Bulacan province in the past 24 hours left 21 dead and 64 others arrested. Police say the suspects had offered armed resistance against arresting officers. Police records show since the crackdown started, 3,264 alleged drug offenders have been killed in gunbattles with law enforcers. More than 2,000 others died in drug-related homicides, including attacks by motorcycle-riding masked gunmen. Human rights groups report a higher toll and demand an independent investigation into Duterte's possible role in the violence.

Political feud erupts between Australia and New Zealand

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—Like squabbling siblings, New Zealand and Australia have close ties but also a rivalry that can sometimes turn ugly. That tension spilled into politics on Tuesday, when Australian Foreign Minister Julie Bishop accused New Zealand's opposition Labour Party of conspiring to undermine her government, a claim New Zealand lawmakers say is "false" and "utter nonsense." The unlikely dispute involves Barnaby Joyce, Australia's deputy prime minister. Joyce said Monday he'd been advised he was a New Zealand citizen and an Australian court was being asked to determine if he should be kicked out of parliament because Australia's constitution bans lawmakers from being dual citizens. Bishop says Australia's opposition Labor Party used their New Zealand counterparts to raise questions about Joyce in the New Zealand parliament.

Roadside bomb kills 6 paramilitary forces in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (AP)—Police in Pakistan say a roadside bomb has killed six paramilitary troops and wounded another two. Police officer Naeem Gul Tareen said the bomb exploded Monday when a Frontier Corps patrol was passing by in the southwestern province of Baluchistan. No one immediately claimed the attack. The province is home to a low-level insurgency by ethnic Baluch separatists, as well as Islamic militants. A suicide bomber rammed his motorcycle into an army truck in Baluchistan on Saturday, killing 15 people and wounding more than 30.

World

18 dead in suspected jihadist attack on Burkina Faso eatery

AP

Security forces stands guard outside the site of a restaurant attacked in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, Monday, Aug. 14 , 2017. The death toll is still rising and authorities said many of the victims were children dining with their families on Sunday night.

OUAGADOUGOU, Burkina Faso (AP)—Hours after suspected Islamic extremists opened fire as patrons dined at the popular restaurant where she worked as a waitress, Amy Sawadogo was still wandering around barefoot at a crisis center asking about her colleagues.

"I just want to go to the hospital and see who is still alive," the distraught young woman, who was still dressed in her uniform, said early Monday. "I am calling them in vain, no response."

The death toll rose to 18 and authorities said many of the victims were children dining with their families on a Sunday night at the Aziz Istanbul restaurant when horror struck once again in Burkina Faso's capital of Ouagadougou. At least 22 people were wounded.

Less than two years ago, jihadists killed 30 people in a similar attack at the nearby Cappuccino cafe, which only recently reopened in a city where fear of another attack has been high.

Eight of the dead in Sunday's attack were citizens of Burkina Faso, authorities said. Three Lebanese and two Canadians were also killed, according to the victims' respective foreign ministries. Other victims came from Kuwait, Senegal, Nigeria, Turkey and France, state prosecutor Maizan Sereme said.

The attack began around 9 p.m. Sunday when the Aziz Istanbul, an upscale Turkish restaurant patronized by many foreigners, was packed with diners. Two young men wearing jeans and jackets drove up on motorcycles and began indiscriminately shooting at the people inside with Kalashnikovs, witnesses told The Associated Press.

"I heard a noise when they smashed a car with their motorbike and before I understood what happened they started shooting at the customers on the terrace," said Assane Guebre, who had been keeping an eye on customers' cars parked outside.

"They were close to me, and I still don't know how they did not hit me first," said Guebre, whose hands were still bleeding from the cuts he suffered when he threw himself to the ground to avoid the bullets.

Gunfire rang out long into the night before the country's special forces ended the attack after nearly seven hours. Initially authorities had said there were three or four assailants. However, government spokesman Remy Danguinou told reporters early Monday that two attackers had been killed by the authorities.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility but the attack bore the hallmarks of the January 2016 assault on the Cappuccino—gunmen opening fire on diners at a restaurant popular with foreigners, prompting a massive search for the culprits as gunfire and explosions continued into the night.

President Roch Marc Christian Kabore declared three days of national mourning. "The fight against terrorism is a long-term battle," he said in a statement Monday. "That's why I'm calling for vigilance, solidarity and unity of the whole nation in order to face the cowardice of our adversaries."

The U.N. Security Council issued a statement Monday night condemning the attack, which it called it "barbaric and cowardly." It added that "terrorism in all its forms and manifestations constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security."

In Paris, the office of French President Emmanuel Macron said he discussed the attack in a call with his Burkina Faso counterpart. The leaders agreed it was urgent to accelerate the deployment of a new 5,000-strong anti-terror force in the Sahel, a statement said. With contributions from Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Burkina Faso and Chad—known as the G5—the force is to deploy by September.

At least five members of Burkina Faso's security forces were among the wounded, and another member on leave at the time was among the dead, the state prosecutor said.

Burkina Faso, a landlocked nation in West Africa, is one of the poorest countries in the world. It shares a northern border with Mali, which has long battled Islamic extremists.

Maduro seeks probe of opposition over Trump's military talk

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—President Nicolas Maduro asked the pro-government constitutional assembly Monday to investigate the opposition for allegedly supporting Donald Trump's remarks on using military action to resolve Venezuela's political crisis.

Addressing a rally of government supporters, Maduro said Trump's comments were prompted by the failure of the opposition's campaign to oust him after months of destabilizing protests.

Calling for "justice," he said the truth commission set up by the constitutional assembly should investigate opposition leaders as "traitors" for not speaking out clearly against the U.S. president. Opponents who don't cooperate in the investigation will face arrest, he warned.

"If they don't show up on their own, we'll go looking for them with handcuffs," he told a few thousand government supporters, many of them state workers, gathered at the presidential palace.

The main opposition alliance rejected the use of military threats to resolve Venezuela's crisis. But its statement Sunday didn't mention Trump by name, instead blaming Maduro for converting Venezuela into a threat to regional stability and accusing him of ceding the country's sovereignty and oil wealth to Cuba and other foreign powers.

Maduro also ordered two days of civilian-military exercises to dissuade a U.S. attack.

As Maduro and other senior officials sought to rally opposition to Trump, U.S. Vice President Mike Pence found himself doing damage control for the Republican leader in a previously scheduled visit to Latin America.

Seeking to highlight the worsening plight in Venezuela, he met Monday in Cartagena, Colombia, with a small group of Venezuelans who have fled their homeland. He described their stories as "heartbreaking" and before leaving he and his wife, Karen Pence, grasped hands with the group in a prayer circle as she prayed for "comfort to the Venezuelan refugees."

Trump's remarks last week that he wouldn't rule out a "military option" for Venezuela shocked even allies in Latin America who thought the U.S. had turned its back on decades of big-stick diplomacy in the region. Pence's last stop on the four-nation tour will take him to Panama, which saw the last U.S. military invasion in Latin America, the 1989 "Operation Just Cause" to remove military dictator Manuel Noriega.

"The phantom of military interventions in Latin America disappeared a long time ago and we don't want it to return," Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos, the staunchest U.S. ally in the region, said Sunday at a news conference alongside Pence.

WORLD BRIEFS

Driver purposely steers into French pizzeria, killing girl

SEPT-SORTS, France (AP)—A man believed to be under the influence of drugs—and possibly suicidal—deliberately rammed his car into a pizzeria east of Paris on Monday night, killing an adolescent girl and injuring her younger brother and 12 others, authorities said. The driver was immediately arrested in what was the latest of several attacks in France and elsewhere using a vehicle as a weapon. The local prosecutor said the man's actions in the dinnertime attack in the town of Sept-Sorts were clearly deliberate, but not terrorism-related. The girl and her brother were among restaurant patrons eating on the outdoor terrace of Pizzeria Cesena when a man in a BMW accelerated toward them, an official with the national gendarme service told The Associated Press. Some officials said the girl was 13, while the prosecutor said she was 12.

Americans sentenced in Panama for 5 murders

PANAMA CITY (AP)—U.S. citizen William Dathan Holbert was sentenced to 47 years in prison by a court in Panama for robbing and killing five other Americans in a Caribbean tourist destination, authorities said Monday. Holbert's ex-wife Laura Reese was sentenced to 26 years for her role. Authorities said Holbert admitted killing five people between 2007 and 2010 in Bocas del Toro province in order to steal their property. Holbert's lawyer, Claudia Alvarado, suggested an appeal was likely. Holbert and Reese were arrested while trying to enter Nicaragua from Costa Rica in 2010. That year, the bodies of four adults and one child were found buried on the property of a hostel that Holbert owned.

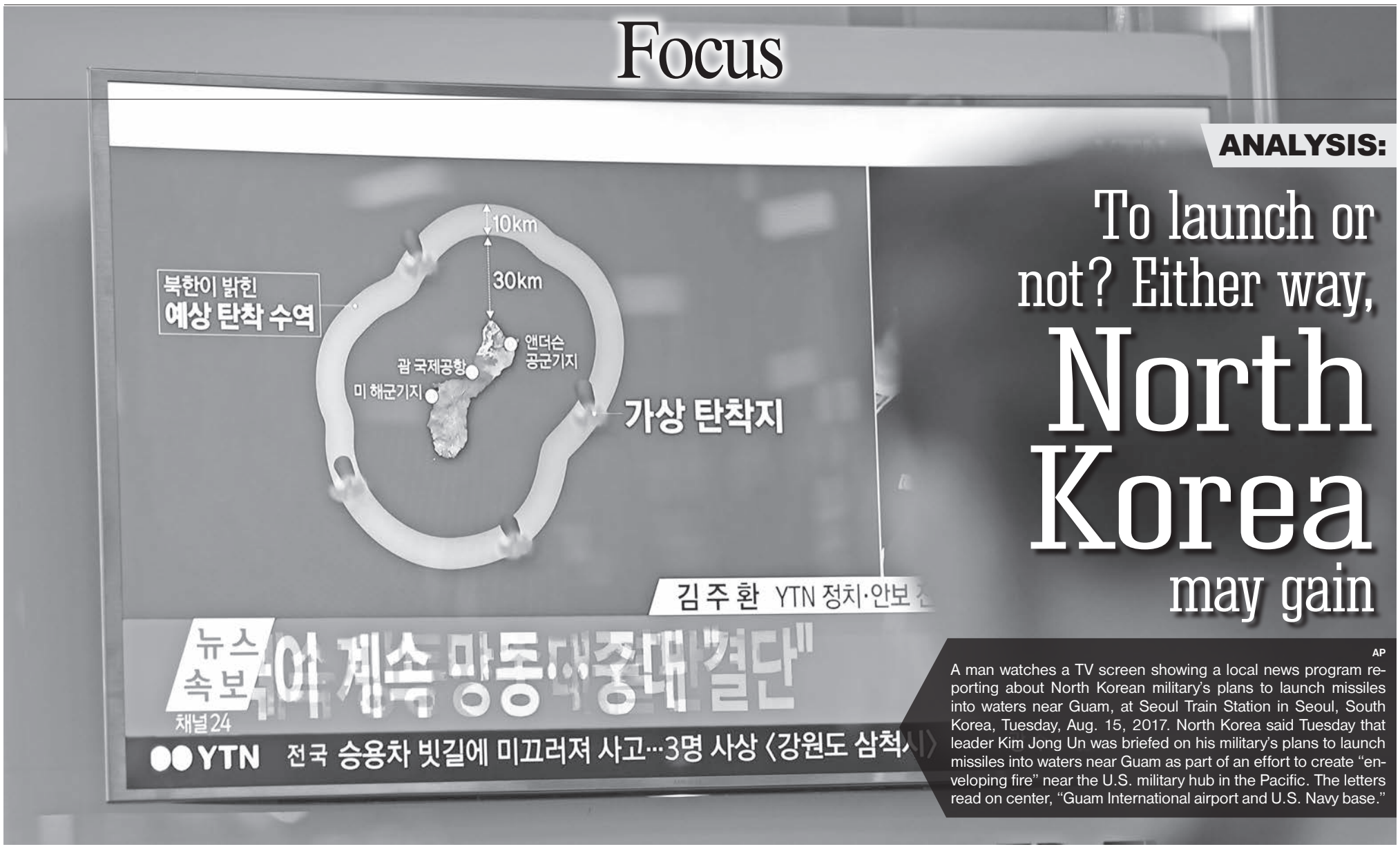
Austria records first instances of Fipronil-tainted eggs

VIENNA (AP)—Austria's food safety agency says it has found the first instances of eggs contaminated with Fipronil in the country. The AGES agency says eight of 80 samples tested nationwide yielded traces of the insecticide, with the highest level at 0.1 milligrams a kilogram. That's below the EU limit of 0.72 milligrams a kilogram and AGES says the traces in Austria are 10 times lower than the highest concentration, found in Belgium. AGES said Monday the insecticide was found in shipments of egg products for restaurant use from Germany, The Netherlands, Belgium and Poland. Experts say the risk of getting sick from eating an egg tainted with Fipronil is low. But the illegal use of the insecticide in spray to rid hens of ticks, fleas and lice has prompted European food safety agencies to issue warnings and recalls of possibly affected imports.

Focus

ANALYSIS:

To launch or not? Either way, North Korea may gain



AP

A man watches a TV screen showing a local news program reporting about North Korean military's plans to launch missiles into waters near Guam, at Seoul Train Station in Seoul, South Korea, Tuesday, Aug. 15, 2017. North Korea said Tuesday that leader Kim Jong Un was briefed on his military's plans to launch missiles into waters near Guam as part of an effort to create "enveloping fire" near the U.S. military hub in the Pacific. The letters read on center, "Guam International airport and U.S. Navy base."

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—If, after all the fanfare, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un doesn't actually launch missiles toward Guam, many may write the whole episode off as another of the North's seemingly endless bluffs. But from Pyongyang's perspective and in the eyes of some U.S. military experts, Kim and his generals have already won this round.

Launch or not, Pyongyang has caused great drama and angst, riled U.S. President Donald Trump and alarmed America's allies in Tokyo and Seoul. It could also set a precedent for more aggressive brinkmanship ahead.

It comes as no surprise then that on Tuesday, as North Korea's state media released photos of Kim and his military officers examining the launch plan, replete with photos of the missiles' flight path and a big satellite image of the U.S. territory's Andersen Air Force Base, it also offered a seeming out.

Kim, it said, wants to "watch a little more" before making a decision.

The North's plan is to launch four missiles into the waters around the U.S. Pacific territory: one to the north, one to the south, and one each east and west. Pyongyang is calling it an "enveloping fire" demonstration, but in military jargon it's more commonly called "bracketing." It was calculated to touch off a storm of anxiety region-wide.

But firing missiles into Guam's exclusive economic zone, as the North threatened, would be an extremely risky move. "If they fire at the United States, it could escalate into war very quickly," U.S. Defense Secretary James Mattis said Monday. "Yes, that's called war, if they shoot at us."

So, from the start, Pyongyang gave itself big exit ramps.

The North has never said it would attack Guam itself. To make its intentions crystal clear, it provided an extremely detailed account of the planned trajectory of the launch, which Japanese prefectures it would go over, the duration of the flight—right down to the second—and the distance of the "splash areas" from Guam's coast.

More importantly, it never committed to a launch date. Or, for that matter, to launching the missiles at all.

"The regime composed the threat in such a way as to allow Kim to back down without losing face," said Adam Mount, a nuclear strategy specialist with the Center for American Progress. "North Korea's Guam threat was more sophisticated, credible, and coercive than any of the vague warnings Trump made last week."

Of course, Pyongyang could blow past its own fail-safes.

It may still want to try its missiles out at an angle closer to the "battle trajectory" they would fly in a real attack, rather than the "lofted" trajectories they've been using to avoid flying over neighboring countries. If pushed further, or possibly as a high-profile protest to U.S.-South Korean military exercises that will begin next week, it could also want to use the launch to show the world what it can do and see what it can get away with.

But many experts who follow North Korea think Kim isn't in any big hurry.

"It seems to me they plan to draw this out, perhaps expecting Trump to lose interest," said Jeffrey Lewis, an arms control expert at the Middlebury Institute of International Studies in Monterey, California. "It's not an empty threat, but it's also fairly high stakes. I imagine that the North Koreans would skip it if the rhetoric was toned down."

Pyongyang has suggested Kim's decision is contingent on B-1B bomber flights from Guam to Korean airspace. The B-1B, though no longer capable of carrying nuclear weapons, is one of the most advanced bombers in the Air Force and Washington has frequently ordered such missions—over South Korea but near the DMZ—as a show of force against Pyongyang.

If Washington were to halt the flights, Kim could claim a victory. If it were to order the B-1Bs into the air, Pyongyang would have an excuse to launch. Or it could claim it magnanimously refrained from doing so, while reserving the right to do so at a later date.

For Kim, in the convoluted world of military deterrence, that's a win-win.

"I think at some point they're going to say, 'Look, this is not anything different than your flying B-1 bombers over Korea,'" said Robert Carlin, a contributor to the respected 38 North website and former State Department and CIA analyst.

"We're going to put our missiles 25 or 30 kilometers offshore. Your bombers come within tens of kilometers of the Demilitarized Zone. If you can 'reach out and touch' us, we can 'reach out and touch' you."

A look at North Korea's past bluster and actual attacks

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea has a long track record of issuing threats and ultimatums that don't necessary lead to action. Then again, when it does act — often without warning — it can be fatal.

Here's a look at North Korean bluster, and cases where it's believed to have made good on threats, though in most of those cases it has denied carrying out attacks.

2015: LANDMINES AND LOUDSPEAKERS

Kim Jong Un issued an ultimatum that seemed to bring the Koreas very close to a war footing in August 2015. Tensions had escalated rapidly after land mines maimed two South Korean soldiers along the Demilitarized Zone. The confrontation deepened as the South demanded an apology and re-started propaganda broadcasts over loudspeakers near the DMZ. It was defused at the last minute by marathon talks.

2014: THE SONY HACK

Washington claims North Korea carried out this massive hack in 2014 to get revenge against Sony Entertainment for distributing "The Interview," a black comedy that ended with graphic images of Kim Jong Un being enveloped in a fiery explosion. Pyongyang had warned it would retaliate before the movie's release, threatening attacks on the White House and other targets in the United States. It has denied responsibility for the hack, but praised the hackers.

2013: A THREAT ON GUAM OVER B-52 BOMBERS

In an escalation of threats in March 2013 similar to what is going on now, North Korea warned that Guam was within striking range of its missiles. The threat came as the United States announced a plan to send B-52 bombers over South Korea for military exercises with Seoul. It was considered serious enough to warrant the deployment of missile interceptors, but in the end dissipated without incident.

2010: ISLAND SHELLING

On Nov. 23, 2010, the North hammered the South Korean island of Yeonpyeong, firing off 170 shells and rockets that hit military and civilian targets and killed four South Koreans. The North claimed the incident was triggered by South Korean artillery drills and the South's firing of rounds into the North's territorial waters. It occurred as tensions were unusually high — that same day, the U.S. and South Korea began annual, large-scale military exercises.

2010: SINKING OF THE CHEONAN

On March 26, 2010, the South Korean corvette Cheonan sank in the Yellow Sea after being hit by what is believed to have been a torpedo. Forty-six South Korean sailors died. North Korea denied it attacked the ship and refutes the findings of a subsequent international panel. But many saw it as possible retaliation for a clash with the South several months earlier off the west coast of the Korean Peninsula that left two North Koreans dead.

2002: THE AXIS OF EVIL

North Korea reacted to President George W. Bush's claim that it was part of an "Axis of Evil" by issuing a warning through its Foreign Ministry that the U.S. isn't the only country that can attack its adversaries and said it would "mercilessly wipe out the aggressors." So far, it hasn't.

Good Housekeeping

You say tomato, I say delicious

By KATHY MORRISON
THE SACRAMENTO BEE

Even if you got a late start on planting, you should have some homegrown tomatoes by now. You've been waiting a long time for this. The first ripe ones you probably popped in your mouth right there in the garden or bit into over the sink.

Here are a few recipes to use some of the others in. Be sure to hum a bit of Guy Clark's ditty "Homegrown Tomatoes" while you're fixing them.

MARINATED TOY BOX TOMATOES

Serves 4

These are served as a starter at Hazel in D.C., but they can be enjoyed at almost any time of day. They are especially good with a scoop of cottage cheese.

Umeboshi (salted plum) paste, Korean chili powder and furikake, a Japanese rice seasoning blend, are available at Whole Foods Markets as well as Asian supermarkets and specialty stores. To make the furikake used at Hazel, see the note below.

Make ahead: The tomatoes need to marinate for 30 minutes at room temperature and can be refrigerated for up to 1 day in advance. Sprinkle with the furikake just before serving. If you make the furikake seasoning blend, refrigerate it in an airtight container for up to 1 month.

Adapted from Rob Rubba, chef at Hazel.

Finely grated zest and juice of 1 lime

1/2 medium shallot, minced

1 clove garlic, minced

5 basil leaves, torn or coarsely chopped

1 tablespoon umeboshi paste (salted plum; see headnote)

1/4 cup extra-virgin olive oil

1 pound mixed heirloom cherry tomatoes, cut as you like

4 tablespoons furikake (see notes)

Combine the lime zest and juice, shallot, garlic, basil and umeboshi paste in a mixing bowl. Gradually add the oil, whisking constantly to form an emulsified dressing.

Add the tomatoes and toss to coat.

Divide among individual plates; top each portion with some of the furikake. Serve right away.

NOTE: To make Hazel's furikake blend, whisk together 4 tablespoons of chopped toasted nori, 1 tablespoon of white or roasted sesame seeds, 1 tablespoon of flax seeds, 1 tablespoon of puffed sorghum or puffled rice (crushed), 11/2 teaspoons of dehydrated onion flakes and 1 tablespoon of Korean red chili powder. Season lightly with kosher salt. Refrigerate in an airtight container for up to 1 month.

Per serving: 170 calories, 2 g protein, 9 g carbohydrates, 15 g fat, 2 g saturated fat, 0 mg cholesterol, 310 mg sodium, 3 g dietary fiber, 4 g sugar

CAPRESE STRATA

Serves 6 to 8

Components of a classic Caprese salad flavor this moist, layered casserole. Make sure your tomatoes are ripe and flavorful.

Note: The chopped tomatoes need to drain for 30 minutes to 1 hour. The assembled strata needs to be refrigerated for at least 4 hours and preferably overnight. It needs to sit at room temperature for about 30 minutes before baking.

2 pounds ripe tomatoes, seeded and cut into roughly 1/2-inch pieces

1 teaspoon plus 1/2 teaspoon kosher salt

8 ounces sliced hearty white Italian bread (about 8 slices), including crusts, toasted to a light golden brown, then cut or torn into roughly 1-inch pieces

2 tablespoons freshly grated Parmigiano-Reggiano cheese

1 cup (8 ounces) whole-milk ricotta cheese

5 tablespoons prepared pesto

1/4 cup loosely packed thinly sliced fresh basil leaves

Freshly ground black pepper

4 ounces whole-milk mozzarella, preferably fresh, cut into slices about 1/8 inch thick

8 large eggs

1 cup whole milk

Place the tomatoes in a colander set over a bowl; sprinkle with 1 teaspoon of the salt and stir to combine. Let the tomatoes drain for 30 minutes to an hour, stirring them occasionally, then place a small plate over the tomatoes and press down firmly several times to remove more liquid.

Grease the inside of a 2-quart baking dish with cooking oil spray. Cover the bottom of the baking dish with a single layer of about half of the bread, breaking up some pieces and using them to fill in gaps as needed. Top with a little less than half of the tomatoes, first giving them a good final squeeze to get rid of more liquid.

TNS

Tomatoes Provencal is an ideal use for end-of-summer tomatoes. The whole-wheat breadcrumb stuffing is flavored with garlic, fresh basil and thyme and stuffed into a ripe, juicy tomato.

Stir together the Parmigiano-Reggiano and ricotta cheeses in a bowl, until well combined, then drop dollops of the mixture over the tomatoes. Use the back of a spoon to spread it into an even layer. Drizzle evenly with 3 tablespoons of the pesto. Scatter about half of the basil over the pesto. Sprinkle with a few grinds of pepper.

Add a second layer of bread. (You might not need all of it.) Top with the remaining tomatoes (squeezing them first), drizzle with the remaining 2 tablespoons of pesto and evenly scatter over the remaining basil. Top evenly with the mozzarella slices.

Combine the eggs, milk and remaining 1/2 teaspoon of salt in a large liquid measuring cup with a pour spout; use an egg beater or immersion (stick) blender to thoroughly incorporate. Pour the mixture down the inside of the baking dish to fill it to within 1/2 inch of the top, pressing down lightly on the assembled strata to make sure all the bread is moistened. You will probably have some of the mixture left over; cover the measuring cup with plastic wrap and refrigerate it. Cover the baking dish with plastic wrap and refrigerate for at least 4 hours and preferably overnight.

Remove the plastic wrap from the strata and let it sit at room temperature for about 30 minutes. The level of liquid should have lowered; give the reserved egg-milk mixture a good stir and pour some or all of it into the baking dish, keeping it below 1/2 inch from the top.

Position a rack in the lower third of the oven; preheat to 350 degrees.

Bake the strata for 45 minutes to an hour or until it has puffed and browned. If the edges begin to get too dark before the middle is puffed and set, tent the baking dish loosely with aluminum foil. (You can cut a piece from the middle of the foil to expose the center of the strata and promote browning there.)

Transfer the strata to a wire cooling rack; let it sit for 15 minutes before serving.

Per serving (based on 8): 340 calories, 19 g protein, 22 g carbohydrates, 19 g fat, 7 g saturated fat, 215 mg cholesterol, 630 mg sodium, 2 g dietary fiber, 6 g sugar

CAPERS, ALMONDS AND HERBS

Serves 4 to 6

This starter or salad is no muss, no fuss, big flavors, with the savory crunch of smoked almonds and saltiness of capers.

Adapted from "The Naked Cookbook," by Tess Ward (Ten Speed Press, 2016).

1 pound 2 ounces mixed-variety small tomatoes

3 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil

1 tablespoon maple syrup

1 tablespoon fresh lemon juice

1/2 teaspoon hot Spanish smoked paprika (pimenton)

1 small shallot, finely chopped

2 tablespoons small capers, rinsed, drained and coarsely chopped

1/3 cup smoked almonds, coarsely chopped

Small handful flat-leaf parsley leaves, chopped

Sea salt

Freshly ground black pepper

Cut the tomatoes into a mixture of disks and wedges; different shapes and sizes are nice for variation.

Whisk together the oil, maple syrup, lemon juice and Spanish smoked paprika in a mixing bowl.

Add the shallot, capers, tomatoes, half of the almonds and three-quarters of the parsley; toss to incorporate. Season lightly with salt and pepper.

Just before serving, sprinkle the remaining almonds and parsley on top.

Per serving: 130 calories, 2 g protein, 8 g carbohydrates, 11 g fat, 2 g saturated fat, 0 mg cholesterol, 180 mg sodium, 2 g dietary fiber, 5 g sugar

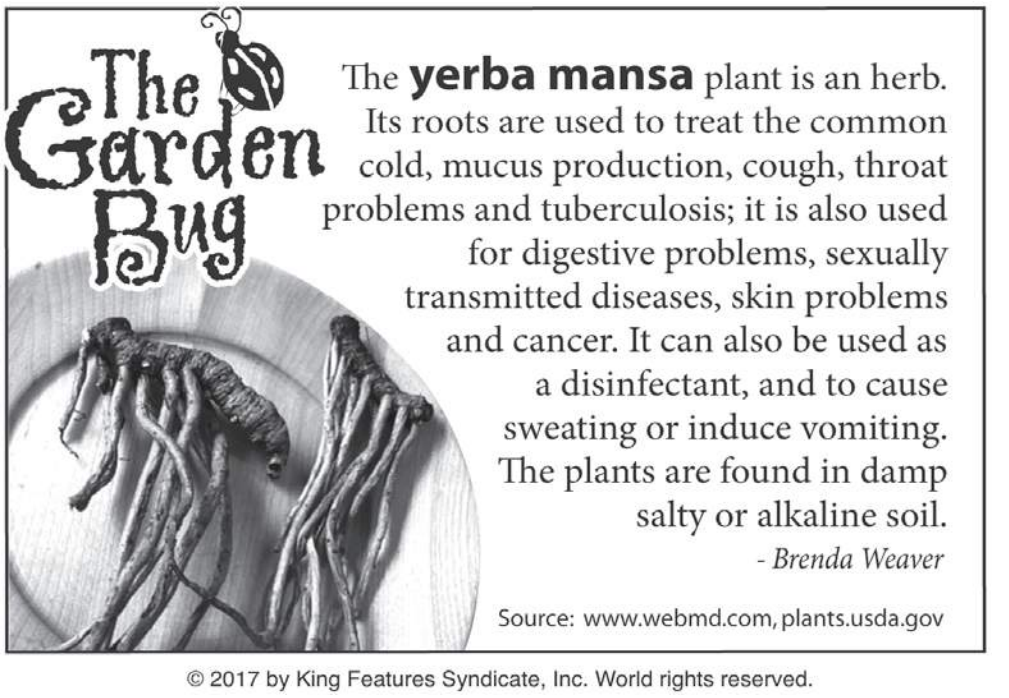
TOMATOES WITH

Tomato-corn wraps with chicken

Grill 2 ears unshucked corn over medium heat until done, 30 minutes. Remove husks; cut kernels from cobs. Meanwhile, season 4 skinless, boneless chicken breast halves with salt and pepper. Grill, turning once, until cooked through, about 10 minutes. In a large bowl, add 3 green onions, coarsely chopped; 2 tomatoes, diced; the juice of 1 lime; 1 small jalapeno, seeded, finely chopped; 2 tablespoons chopped cilantro; 1 tablespoon olive oil; 1/2 teaspoon cumin; the reserved corn; and salt to taste; stir to combine. Slice or shred the chicken; divide among 4 flatbreads. Top with salsa; roll flatbreads into wraps. Makes: 4 servings

Recipe by Renee Enna

Tomatoes with capers, almonds and herbs offer a no-fuss delight with big flavors. For a Caprese strata, make sure your tomatoes are ripe and flavorful. Tomatoes with capers, almonds and herbs offer a no-fuss delight with big flavors.


The Garden Bug
The yerba mansa plant is an herb. Its roots are used to treat the common cold, mucus production, cough, throat problems and tuberculosis; it is also used for digestive problems, sexually transmitted diseases, skin problems and cancer. It can also be used as a disinfectant, and to cause sweating or induce vomiting. The plants are found in damp salty or alkaline soil.
- Brenda Weaver
Source: www.webmd.com, plants.usda.gov

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Life & Style

Swift justice: Jury takes Taylor's side in groping lawsuit

DENVER (AP)—Four years after Taylor Swift tried to handle her groping allegation against a radio station DJ quietly, the pop superstar got a very public victory Monday with a jury's verdict that she hoped would inspire other women.

Jurors in U.S. District Court in Denver deliberated fewer than four hours to find that ex-radio host David Mueller assaulted and battered Swift during a pre-concert meet-and-greet in June 2013. Per Swift's request, jurors awarded her $1 in damages—a sum her attorney, Douglas Baldridge, called "a single symbolic dollar, the value of which is immeasurable to all women in this situation."

After Monday's verdict, Swift hugged her crying mom and thanked her attorneys "for fighting for me and anyone who feels silenced by a sexual assault, and especially anyone who offered their support throughout this four-year ordeal and two-year-long trial process."

"My hope is to help those whose voices should also be heard," Swift said in a prepared statement, promising to make unspecified donations to groups that help victims of sexual assault.

The six-woman, two-man jury also rejected Mueller's claims that Swift's mother, Andrea Swift, and radio liaison Frank Bell cost him his $150,000-a-year job at country station KYGO-FM, where he was a morning host.

On Friday, U.S. District Judge William Martinez dismissed similar claims against Taylor Swift, ruling Mueller's team failed to offer evidence that the then-23-year-old superstar did anything more than report the incident to her team, including her mother.

Mueller, who was seeking up to $3 million, denied Swift's allegation from the start and maintained his innocence after the verdict.

"I've been trying to clear my name for four years," he said in explaining why he took the singer-songwriter to court. "Civil court is the only option I had. This is the only way that I could be heard."

By the time Swift took the stand Thursday, she was more than angry. She was on a mission to eliminate any doubt about what happened, and she refused to sugarcoat her experience

During an hour of testimony, Swift blasted a low-key characterization by Mueller's attorney, Gabriel McFarland, of what happened. While Mueller testified he never grabbed Swift, she insisted she was groped.

"He stayed attached to my bare ass-cheek as I lurched away from him," Swift testified.

"It was a definite grab. A very long grab," she added.

Mueller emphatically denied reaching under the pop star's skirt or otherwise touching her inappropriately, insisting he touched only her ribs and may have brushed the outside of her skirt as they awkwardly posed for the picture.

That photo was virtually the only evidence besides the testimony.

In the image shown to jurors during opening statements but not publicly released, Mueller's hand is behind Swift, just below her waist. Both are smiling. Mueller's then-girlfriend is standing on the other side of Swift.

Swift testified that after she was groped, she numbly told Mueller and his girlfriend, "Thank you for coming," and moved on to photos with others waiting in line because she did not want to disappoint them.

But she said she immediately went to her photographer after the meet-and-greet ended and found the photo of her with Mueller, telling the photographer what happened.

Andrea Swift testified that she asked Bell to call Mueller's employers. They did not call the police to avoid further traumatizing her daughter, she said.

"We absolutely wanted to keep it private. But we didn't want him to get away with it," Andrea Swift testified.

Bell said he emailed the photo to Robert Call, KYGO's general manager, for use in Call's investigation of Mueller. He said he didn't ask that Mueller be fired but that "appropriate action be taken."

Stunt driver dies while filming 'Deadpool 2' in Vancouver

AP

A police officer photographs a motorcycle after a female stunt driver working on the movie "Deadpool 2" died after a crash on set, in Vancouver, B.C., on Monday Aug. 14, 2017.

VANCOUVER, British Columbia (AP)—"Deadpool 2" star Ryan Reynolds is mourning the death of a motorcycle stunt driver killed during production Monday.

Reynolds released a statement on Twitter a few hours after the accident near the waterfront in downtown Vancouver.

"Today, we tragically lost a member of our crew while filming Deadpool," the actor wrote. "We're heartbroken, shocked and devastated ... but recognize nothing can compare to the grief and inexplicable pain her family and loved ones must feel in this moment."

Reynolds, a native of Vancouver playing the Marvel Comics superhero Deadpool in the 20th Century Fox movie, said his heart "pours out to them—along with each and every person she touched in this world."

The motorcycle crash happened near the Shaw Tower office building, where a crumpled motorcycle was seen lying on its side and a window was smashed.

Nathan Kramchynski, who works on the seventh floor of the building, said he watched rehearsals for the stunt outside the Vancouver Convention Centre. The stunt woman had been riding the motorcycle down a set of stairs from the center and stopped when she reached the street, he said.

But when the accident happened, the driver appeared to pick up speed, crossed the street and swerved to avoid pedestrians before disappearing from his view, Kramchynski said.

"She lost control really quickly. It happened in a split second," he said. "She was going full throttle and then there's a building there."

Another witness, Sharmina Kermalli, said she had just walked into a Starbucks next door to where the accident happened when she heard a loud crash. She ran outside and saw glass still falling on the body of the motorcycle driver.

The name of the stunt woman was not immediately released.

Police said WorkSafeBC, the British Columbia provincial workplace safety agency, and the coroner's service were investigating. Trish Knight Chernecki of WorkSafe BC said some investigators are looking at any possible occupational health and safety issues while others examine the cause of the crash and prevention in the future.

The last stunt death in British Columbia was in 1996, when a person jumped from a helicopter and a parachute failed to open, she said.

In March 2016, actor Dylan O'Brien suffered injuries on the British Columbia set of the latest instalment of the "Maze Runner" film series. WorkSafe BC said Fox Productions Inc. didn't rehearse a stunt sequence properly, but Fox said the stunt was thoroughly rehearsed.

A stuntman was fatally injured last month in Georgia during production of "The Walking Dead." He fell headfirst onto concrete about 22 feet (7 meters) below after appearing to try to grab a railing to stop his fall.

AP Exclusive: MTV, record label debate 'Despacito' video

NEW YORK (AP)—MTV says the uber-popular video for "Despacito" didn't earn a nomination at its Video Music Awards because it wasn't submitted for consideration, but Universal Music Latin Entertainment says MTV didn't ask the label to submit the video until last week—two weeks after the network announced its VMA nominees.

"Despacito" has not aired on MTV or MTV2, but it is being played on MTV Tres, the company's Latin channel. As for the VMAs, MTV said "the 'Despacito' video was not submitted for consideration" in a statement to The Associated Press on Monday.

"Until last week, MTV hadn't solicited UMLE to submit the video for consideration," a spokesperson for the record label said in a statement to the AP after it published a story on the reason for "Despacito's" exclusion from the awards show.

It is unclear why the network solicited the label for a submission after the nominations had already been announced. MTV did not immediately respond to a message seeking comment Monday afternoon.

MTV announced its VMA nominees on July 25. The network said Monday that "Despacito"—the song not the video—will be acknowledged at the VMAs as a nominee in its song of summer category. That category and its nominees will be officially announced the week of Aug. 21.

The label said it hopes MTV will air the video at some point.

"UMLE is surprised and happy to learn that MTV plans to recognize 'Despacito' in the VMA's 'Song of Summer' category," the label said. "We hope the nomination will lead to MTV airing the full video on their main channels."

MTV did not explain why it has not played "Despacito" on its main channel when asked by the AP. Luis Fonsi and Daddy Yankee's hit song has become YouTube's most viewed clip of all-time, surpassing 3 billion views.

"We're proud to work with MTV to expose new audiences to our artists' music and we would welcome MTV's decision to recognize Spanish-language videos on its main channel and the Music Video Awards program," the label said.

The VMAs will air live on Aug. 27.

Scaramucci: If it were up to me, Bannon would be gone

NEW YORK (AP)—Short-lived White House communications director Anthony Scaramucci says if it were up to him, top adviser Steve Bannon would be gone from President Donald Trump's administration.

But, he notes, "it's not up to me."

"The Mooch," a few weeks removed from his spectacular flameout following an expletive-laden conversation with a reporter, appeared Monday on CBS' "Late Show" with Stephen Colbert. Colbert has seen his ratings soar since Trump's inauguration with his relentless comedic attacks.

Scaramucci

Colbert showed a picture of Scaramucci and former White House Chief of Staff Reince Priebus glaring at each other. Scaramucci said there was "no love lost" between the two.

He said he and Priebus got along well when he was writing checks to the Republican National Committee, which Priebus once led. Scaramucci said he knows Trump "as a compassionate person," while reiterating that he thought the president should have spoken more harshly than he did initially of the white supremacists involved in the violent protest in Charlottesville, Virginia.

Of Trump's frequent off-the-cuff remarks, Scaramucci said, "That's him wearing his heart on his sleeve."

Tyson's solar eclipse tip: Don't video it, experience it

NEW YORK (AP)—Prominent astrophysicist Neil deGrasse Tyson has a suggestion for anyone with a view of next week's solar eclipse: Put down your smartphone and take in the phenomenon yourself.

Tyson told an audience at the American Museum of Natural History on Monday: "Experience this one emotionally, psychologically, physically."

The Aug. 21 event will be the first total solar eclipse in 99 years to cross a coast-to-coast swath of the United States. A total solar eclipse happens when the moon passes between the earth and the sun, completely blotting out the sunlight.

Tyson, the director of the museum's Hayden Planetarium and host of the podcast "StarTalk," said missing the eclipse "would be to not live as full a life as you could have"—and having a video of it doesn't match watching it happen.

"I get it—you want to look at it later. But then you would not have experienced it in the moment," said Tyson, who also has appeared on the CBS sitcom "The Big Bang Theory."

His remarks resonated with Hanneke Weitering, who's traveling from Brooklyn to Nashville, Tennessee, to watch the eclipse. The 24-year-old marked the date in her calendar as a college undergraduate.

"I've been looking forward to it ever since," she said.

For those unable to buy special glasses to view the sun safely, Tyson, recommends holding a spaghetti strainer to the ground and looking at the images it creates below, like a pinhole camera.

And however one views it, "recognize that, occasionally, things line up in ways that are uncommon or unusual, either in your life experience or for the earth itself," he said.

WWE: Pro wrestler Ric Flair out of surgery and resting

ATLANTA (AP) — World Wrestling Entertainment says pro wrestling legend Ric Flair is out of surgery and resting after being hospitalized.

The statement Monday did not give details about the nature of the surgery.

A representative for the showman known as "Nature Boy" says the 68-year-old wrestler was admitted to the hospital for routine monitoring. Melinda Morris Zanoni of Legacy Talent asked on Twitter Monday for "prayers & positive energy" because Flair has "tough medical issues."

Former pro wrestler Mick Foley and wrestling executive Eric Bischoff are among numerous wrestlers wishing Flair well on Twitter.

Known for his flamboyant outfits and "Woooo!" catchphrase, Flair made his professional debut in 1972 and was inducted into the World Wrestling Entertainment Hall of Fame in 2008.

Pantone creates 'Purple Rain' hue to honor Prince

NEW YORK (AP) — A shade of purple named for the late superstar Prince was announced Monday by the icon's estate.

The "Purple Rain" hue created by the Pantone Color Institute was dubbed "Love Symbol #2," paying tribute to his custom Yamaha piano and the squiggly graphic Prince began using as his name in 1993 in a testy battle with Warner Bros. Records over ownership of some of his biggest hits. He switched back to Prince as a name in 2000 after his Warner contract expired.

Prince died in April 2016 at age 57 of an opioid overdose, according to authorities.

Van Gogh 'Sunflowers' reunited online

LONDON (AP) — Five versions of a Vincent van Gogh masterpiece are being reunited for the first time Monday in a "virtual exhibition."

Van Gogh painted his "Sunflowers" series in the south of France in 1888 and 1889. Five versions of the work reside in five different museums on three continents.

On Monday, they all will be streamed to a global audience in a Facebook Live broadcast.

The 1 hour and 35 minute broadcast begins in London's National Gallery at 1650GMT (12:50 p.m. EDT.) It then continues at Amsterdam's Van Gogh Museum, the Neue Pinakothek in Munich, the Philadelphia Museum of Art and Tokyo's Seiji Togo Memorial Museum of Art.

A curator from each museum will describe, in 15-minute segments, what makes their version unique.

The museums launched a virtual-reality experience last week that shows viewers all five "Sunflowers" in one room. The paintings are so treasured and such big draws it would be difficult to bring them together in real life.

AP

Jennifer Thompson, the curator of European painting at the Philadelphia Museum of Art participates in a Facebook Live broadcast of Vincent van Gogh's Sunflowers in Philadelphia, Monday, Aug. 14, 2017. Five versions of a Vincent van Gogh masterpiece are being reunited for the first time in a "virtual exhibition." Van Gogh painted his "Sunflowers" series in the south of France in 1888 and 1889. On Monday they will all be streamed to a global audience in a Facebook Live broadcast that starts at London's National Gallery and continues at museums in Amsterdam, Munich, Philadelphia and Tokyo.

"We're at a moment in time where new kinds of experience are becoming possible for art galleries and museums all around the world," Chris Michaels, the National Gallery's digital director, said.

London's version of "Sunflowers" is one of the museum's most popular paintings.

It's famous for its blue and yellow swirls, textured surface and rare glimpse into the happy times of Van Gogh's life in Arles, France.

More than 50,000 viewers watched a preview for Monday's event online.

Unapologetic mother continues affair with married boyfriend

DEAR ABBY: My mother is dating a married man, and this is not the first time. While I love her, I don't think what she's doing is right.

This affair has been going on for years. I tried broaching the subject with her, but she said it's her business and unless I'm helping to pay her bills, I don't have the right to give my opinion. It's frustrating because she's driving all over the state with this man. She has two younger daughters at home and she's rarely home with them.

Our entire family dislikes her lover, but she insists on bringing him around "so we can get to know him." I don't want to judge her, but it's hard sometimes. Am I wrong for trying to give her my two cents, or should I mind my own business?

DISAPPOINTED IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR DISAPPOINTED: You have already given your mother your two cents and she has discounted it. It should be apparent to you by now that she has no intention of ending this relationship, regardless of your disapproval.

Rather than mind your own business, because you want to do something helpful, be as loving and supportive of your younger sisters as you can. From your description of your mother's behavior, they need love and attention from an adult they are not receiving from her.

DEAR ABBY: I was divorced 23 years ago. Before I started dating again, I got a hairpiece and have worn one ever since. Some people are aware that I wear a hairpiece, including my current wife of 20 years. It does make me look a lot younger.

I will be turning 55 this year. I'd like to stop wearing the hairpiece and shave my head instead because I have only a fringe of my own hair left. How should I go about it without getting 50,000 questions from friends and family, and what would be a good answer when I'm asked?

HAIR TODAY, GONE TOMORROW

DEAR H.T.G.T.: Removing your hairpiece will be a statement in itself. Afterward, do not be surprised if you receive compliments about your new look. Should anyone ask why you decided to do it, tell the truth. Many men with receding hairlines shave their heads and look terrific.

DEAR ABBY: My son died two months ago. He was 51. It happened on my daughter's birthday. She says that her birthdays have now stopped.

Next year will be a milestone for her as she will be turning 50. How in the world do we celebrate her 50th birthday when we will be thinking about the one-year anniversary of her brother's death? Some friends suggested we have her birthday celebration a few days early, which I feel is not right. Please help.

CAROLE IN ARIZONA

DEAR CAROLE: I'm sorry for the loss of your son. From now on, your daughter's birthday will likely always be bittersweet for her as well as you. That's why I think she should take your friends' suggestion and separate the two events, if possible. A small family get-together around the anniversary date of your son's death might be more appropriate for everyone, at least this time around.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

DEAR ABBY

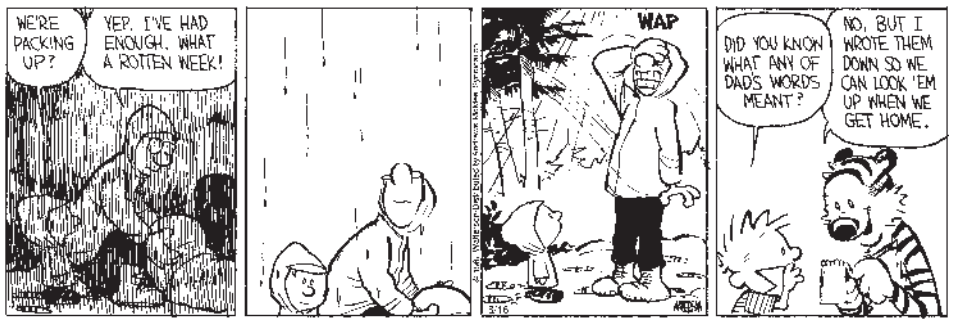
By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

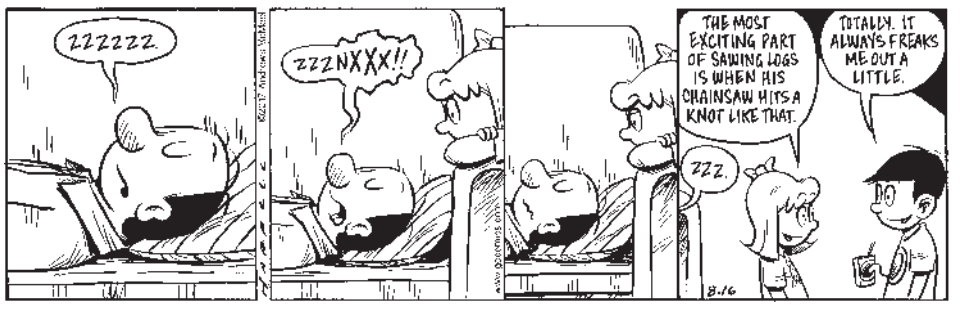

WE'RE PACKING UP?
YEP. I'VE HAD ENOUGH. WHAT A ROTTEN WEEK!
WAP
DID YOU KNOW WHAT ANY OF DAD'S WORDS MEANT?
NO, BUT I WROTE THEM DOWN SO WE CAN LOOK 'EM UP WHEN WE GET HOME.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

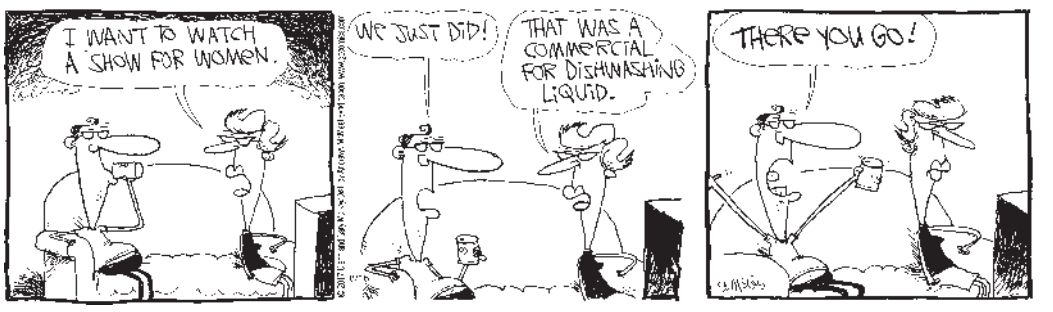
Adam@Home

By Bryan Basset


ZZZZZZ
ZZZNXXX!!
THE MOST EXCITING PART OF SAWING LOGS IS WHEN HIS CHAINSAW HITS A KNOT LIKE THAT.
TOTALLY. IT ALWAYS FREAKS ME OUT A LITTLE.
ZZZ.
8-16

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Ovum
4 Deli meat
7 Gambling game
8 Summary
10 Choral composition
11 Delphi figure
13 Unrefined but effective
16 NASCAR advertiser
17 Beethoven's "Für — "
18 Casual shirt
19 Family
20 Fender bender
21 Respect, slangily
23 Oafs
25 Botched
26 Bard
27 Tampa Bay NFLer
28 Separated
30 Reggae relative
33 Easy progress
36 Pack animals
37 Seer's deck
38 "Common Sense" pamphleteer
39 Author Harte
40 Nonclerical
41 Mag. staff

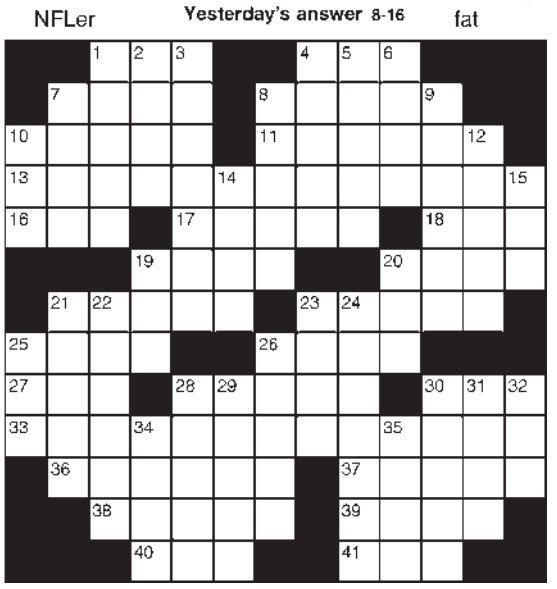
DOWN

1 Devour
2 Actor Kinnear
3 Called 911, e.g.
4 Flocks
5 Without — in the world
6 Spiked club
7 Yard fraction
8 1998 De Niro film
9 Coated, as with gold
10 Doubtfire or Dalloway
12 Idyllic places
14 Regrettably
15 However
19 Farm female
20 Speck
21 Vertical
22 Get back
23 "Downton Abbey" countess
24 Beatles classic
25 Small ammo
26 Old hat
28 Places in the heart
29 Fake
30 Begets
31 Shoelace snarl
32 Literary rep
34 Verbal
35 Cooking fat

Solution time: 23 mins.

M	A	P	S	■	P	O	I	■	B	A	R	S
A	B	R	A	■	A	G	O	■	E	M	I	I
R	O	O	M	■	B	L	U	E	N	O	S	E
C	O	M	P	O	S	E	■	T	H	R	E	W
■	■	■	A	N	T	■	G	N	U	■	■	■
P	E	N	N	E	■	T	E	A	R	O	S	E
O	R	E	■	A	I	M	■	■	P	O	T	■
P	R	O	P	O	S	E	■	M	A	P	L	E
■	■	■	A	A	H	■	S	A	T	■	■	■
A	T	I	L	T	■	E	N	C	L	O	S	E
F	I	R	E	H	O	S	E	■	A	B	U	T
A	M	O	S	■	U	S	A	■	S	O	D	A
R	E	N	T	■	R	O	D	■	T	E	S	S

Yesterday's answer 8-16



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Cam Gigandet, 35; Steve Carell, 55; Angela Bassett, 59; Madonna, 59.

Happy Birthday: You'll have plenty of ideas and goals you want to achieve this year. An honest assessment regarding what you can afford will be essential. Do the groundwork, set a budget and do your best not to let anyone interfere. Call in favors in order to cut corners. Being resourceful and avoiding excess will be the key to your success. Your numbers are 7, 16, 23, 27, 36, 44, 46.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Travel plans are favored. Getting away with someone special will bring you closer together. Making plans for the future will make you feel more secure in your relationship and give you something to look forward to. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): A physical challenge will do you good. An emotional dispute will result from disillusionment or deceit. Document what's happening in order to avoid being blamed for something you didn't do. Refuse to take on too much. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Listen carefully to what others have to say. A friend may not be honest with you regarding a developing situation. Offer suggestions only. Getting involved in someone else's affairs will put you in a vulnerable position. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Secrets will be kept and information may be difficult to decipher. Look for unique alternatives that will encourage positive long-term changes at work or at home. Put more effort into yourself and your own goals, not someone else's. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): You will have plenty of dreams, but solid ideas and resourcefulness will make the difference between thinking about what you want to do and following through. Don't procrastinate when you should be making headway. Knock on doors and set up meetings. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Listen carefully. A child or parent will put demands on you or become more of a burden than you bargained for. Look for a practical way to deal with domestic matters. Encourage others to do more and ask for less. ✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Plan a vacation or business trip that offers insight into future prospects. Hanging out with someone who has more experience than you will lead to new interests. Question anyone who uses manipulative tactics to sway public opinion. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Emotional deception regarding joint finances or the way you want to live will not help you sort through any differences you have with someone you love. Express your true feelings and what you see as the best way to move forward. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Put more effort into your relationships with others. Show interest and offer help if you think it will be reciprocated. Weed out those offering insincere gestures of friendliness. Disillusion will lead to personal loss. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Learn as you go. Listen attentively and ask questions if you don't understand. If change is required, be prepared to make it without causing a fuss. Avoid a joint financial venture with anyone you have an emotional connection to. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): A financial gain can be made if you are diligent about the deals you make and the investments you put your money into. A window of opportunity will open through the connections you make or a partnership you form. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): A youngster or parent will add to your responsibilities. Try not to become overwhelmed. Enlist the help of someone you have done something for in the past and you will accomplish your goals and revive the connection. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are persuasive, outgoing and popular. You are excitable and dynamic.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

				7				
	7		6		4		5	
		1				2		
			9		8			
4			2	5	3		6	7
8	2			6		3	9	
	8	2		9	6	1		
			7	1				
				3				

Difficulty Level ★★★ 8/16

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

7	1	6	3	2	9	4	5	8
9	3	5	8	7	4	1	6	2
8	2	4	5	1	6	3	7	9
2	4	8	9	5	1	7	3	6
3	5	9	4	6	7	8	2	1
1	6	7	2	8	3	5	9	4
6	8	3	7	4	2	9	1	5
4	9	1	6	3	5	2	8	7
5	7	2	1	9	8	6	4	3

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

'QUANTICO' (TV SERIES) Solution: 12 letters

S	I	N	X	G	T	J	O	H	A	N	N	A	C	S
R	R	J	E	E	A	R	H	N	K	R	A	M	A	B
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REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP17-OPA-01

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: August 23, 2017 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

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PUBLIC AUDITOR/MANAGER

/s/ CHRISTIAAN WALLACE
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COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS JUDICIARY

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB17-JUDICIARY-07

SUBMISSION DATE: September 1st, 2017 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

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JUDICIARY EXPENDITURE AUTHORITY

/S/ JOHN T. VILLAGOMEZ
JUDICIARY PROCUREMENT OFFICER

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS (RFQ)
RFQ-17-CHCC/CGC-01

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: AUGUST 23, 2017 TIME: 1:00 PM
BID OPENING DATE: AUGUST 23, 2017 TIME: 1:30 PM

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/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ PRISCILLA M. IAKOPO
CHCC DIRECTOR OF P&S

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PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP17-CHCC/HR-21

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 1, 2017 TIME: 1:00 PM
BID OPENING DATE: SEPTEMBER 1, 2017 TIME: 1:30 PM

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/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ PRISCILLA M. IAKOPO
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Stanton hits team-record 43rd homer, Marlins beat Giants, 8-3

MIAMI (AP) — Giancarlo Stanton took care of business right away.

Stanton hit his team-record 43rd home run, connecting in his fifth straight game and sending the Miami Marlins over the San Francisco Giants 8-3 on Monday night.

Stanton broke the club mark of 42 homers set by Gary Sheffield in 1996, doing it in the Marlins' 117th game of the season.

"When you're one homer or one hit away from a record, you don't want to let it linger because then every at-bat is, 'Is he going to do it? Is he going to do it?'" Stanton said. "So luckily I got it out of the way right away, put us on top, and able to finish."

Stanton has homered 22 times in his last 34 games.

"He's on a sick terror," Marlins second baseman Dee Gordon said. "He's amazing."

Said Giants manager Bruce Bochy: "Stanton is in one of those streaks very few power hitters have done what he's doing right now."

Stanton set another team record for most consecutive games with a home run when tagged Ty Blach (8-8) for a two-run drive in the first inning.

Blach said, "I thought I made a pretty decent pitch. He's such a strong guy."

The All-Star slugger later had an RBI single as Miami won its fourth in a row.

"For him to finally have a smile on his face and have a little charisma about himself and stop being so monotone all the time is pretty cool," Gordon said.

Marcell Ozuna also homered for the Marlins. Dee Gordon had three hits, scored twice, and drove in a run to help back Adam Conley (5-5), who allowed three runs in 6 1-3 innings.

"A lot of good things happened where you play the kind of game you like to see," Marlins manager Don Mattingly said. "Obviously Giancarlo's been incredible, but we know there's going to be nights he's not going to do it and we're going to have to be able to score runs somehow."

Denard Span's two-run double tied the game in the third and Hunter Pence's single put the Giants on top 3-2. Christian Yelich tied it with an RBI single in the bottom half.

Gordon and Stanton hit back-to-back RBI singles in the fourth. Ozuna hit a solo home run, his 27th, in the fifth.

AP

Miami Marlins' Giancarlo Stanton (27) runs the bases after hitting a two-run home run during the first inning of a baseball game against the San Francisco Giants, Monday, Aug. 14, 2017, in Miami.

Rockies 3, Braves 0

In Denver, Chad Bettis drew a standing ovation when he took the mound for the first time since cancer treatment, then threw seven impressive innings as Colorado blanked Atlanta.

Bettis scattered six hits, walked none and struck out two. He hadn't pitched in the majors since being diagnosed with testicular cancer in November.

Bettis had surgery for the condition, but tests in March showed the cancer had spread to his lymph nodes. He later underwent chemotherapy.

The Braves' best chance to score against Bettis came when Ender Inciarte led off with a triple, but he was thrown out trying for an inside-the-park home run.

Colorado scored three times in the eighth off Rex Brothers (2-3), who relieved starter Julio Teheran. The Rockies are tied with Arizona for the top NL wild card.

Mike Dunn (5-1) got the win and Greg Holland closed for his 35th save. Holland had blown his previous two save chances.

Indians 7, Red Sox 3

In Boston, Edwin Encarnacion homered twice to help AL Central-leading Cleveland earn its fourth straight victory by beating East-leading Boston.

In a rematch of last year's ALDS, which Cleveland won in a three-game sweep, Trevor Bauer (11-8) struck out 11 over 6 2/3 innings for his fourth consecutive win. He allowed three runs — all on solo homers by Red Sox rookies. Rafael Devers had two and Andrew Benintendi one.

The Indians improved to a season-high five games in front of second-place Minnesota. The Red Sox lost for just the second time in 12 games.

The quick visit to Fenway Park by the Indians was to make up an Aug. 2 rainout that came two days after Doug Fister (2-6) shut out Cleveland into the eighth inning. But this time he allowed five runs on seven hits and four walks in 4 1/3 innings.

Diamondbacks 2, Astros 0

In Phoenix, Zack Greinke struck out nine in six-plus innings to bounce back from his first home loss of the season, lifting Arizona over Houston.

Greinke (14-5) took his first home loss last week against the Dodgers and followed with a dominant performance against the majors' top-hitting team to help the Diamondbacks win for the third time in nine games.

The NL All-Star struck out AL batting leader Jose Altuve three times and held the Astros to five hits in 6 2/3 innings. Fernando Rodney got his 27th save.

Ketel Marte hit a run-scoring double off Collin McHugh (0-2) in the second and J.D. Martinez had another off the right-hander in the sixth.

The AL West-leading Astros have lost six of seven.

Greinke had been dominant at Chase Field prior to his last start, going 10-0 for the best home start in franchise history.

Cubs 15, Reds 5

In Chicago, Kris Bryant and Anthony Rizzo hit back-to-back homers to cap a five-run fourth inning, and Chicago continued its recent dominance of Cincinnati.

Bryant went 2 for 4 with a walk and has reached safely in 16 of his last 20 plate appearances. Rizzo was 3 for 5 with a season-high five RBIs.

Jon Jay had three hits with an RBI and finished a home run shy of the cycle as the Cubs extended their NL Central lead to 1 1/2 games over idle St. Louis. Jose Quintana (3-2) allowed two runs, one earned, and four hits in five innings to snap a three-start winless stretch.

Chicago has 25 wins in its last 32 games against the Reds.

Scooter Gennett hit a two-run homer, his 20th, in the eighth for the Reds, who have five players with at least 20 home runs to tie a club record. Gennett also mopped up on the mound after beginning the game at second base.

Joey Votto went 3 for 5 to set a Cincinnati mark by reaching base at least twice in 19 consecutive games. It's the longest streak in the majors since Barry Bonds did it in 20 straight in 2004.

Reds starter Asher Wojciehowski (3-2) appeared to settle down after a rough first inning, but couldn't get the final out in the fourth.

Yankees 4, Mets 2

In New York, Aaron Judge hit a tying home run in the sixth inning, Aaron Hicks and Gary Sanchez went deep in the eighth and the New York Yankees rallied to beat the Mets in the first of four Subway Series matchups this week.

Curtis Granderson and Yoenis Cespedes homered in the third off Luis Cessa to give the Mets a 2-0 lead at Yankee Stadium.

Sanchez started the Yankees' comeback with a sacrifice fly in the fourth against starter Rafael Montero. Two innings later, Judge hit his AL-leading 36th home run — just his sixth since the All-Star break.

Hicks, who returned last week from an oblique injury, homered against Hansel Robles (7-4) leading off the eighth, his career-best 12th of the season. Sanchez connected two batters later against Erik Goeddel. With 20 homers, Sanchez matched his total in his rookie season last year.

David Robertson (6-2) pitched a hitless eighth, and Dellin Betances finished the six-hitter for his seventh save.

Blue Jays 2, Rays 1

In Toronto, Josh Donaldson hit a two-run homer in the first inning for the second consecutive game, Nick Tepesch won for the first time in almost three years and Toronto edged slumping Tampa Bay.

The last-place Blue Jays have won 10 of 14 at home.

Wilson Ramos homered in the second to provide the only run for the offense-starved Rays, who lost their fourth straight. Tampa Bay arrived in Toronto on the heels of a 2-7 homestand in which the team totaled 11 runs and was shut out five times during an eight-game span.

Tepesch (1-2) had not won since Sept. 16, 2014, for Texas. The right-hander allowed one run and four hits in six-plus innings.

Roberto Osuna got four outs for his 30th save in 37 chances.

Making his second start after missing more than two weeks with a sore lower back, Jake Odorizzi (6-6) allowed three hits in six innings.

Rangers 6, Tigers 2

In Arlington, Texas, Joey Gallo hit his 33rd home run and Texas also played some small ball in a victory over Detroit.

Martin Perez (7-10) had a second straight solid start for the Rangers. The lefty made it through six innings without giving up any more runs after trailing 2-0 only three batters into the game.

The Rangers led for good when Delino DeShields executed a safety squeeze to make it 3-2 in the second. Rougned Odor had three hits, including a double, and scored three times. It was Odor's second consecutive multihit game after going 0 for 17 the previous five games.

Justin Upton hit a two-run homer for the Tigers before a spectacular catch by center fielder Drew Robinson ended the top of the first.

Michael Fulmer (10-10) gave up five runs in five innings.

Orioles 11, Mariners 3

In Seattle, Tim Beckham hit the first pitch of the game out for his first career leadoff homer, Manny Machado launched his sixth grand slam an inning later and Baltimore routed skidding Seattle.

The Orioles scored double-digit runs for the second time in three games and the sixth since the All-Star break. Beckham got them started with his 16th homer, but it was Machado's slam that broke the game open as part of a six-run second.

Trey Mancini hit his 21st homer and Seth Smith added his 12th to turn it into a blowout.

That was plenty for starter Kevin Gausman (9-8), who stumbled early before settling into a groove. Gausman allowed one earned run in seven innings, the fifth time in his last six starts that the right-hander gave up one earned run or less.

Meanwhile, Seattle's sudden fade from the AL wild-card race continued. The Mariners lost their fifth straight — all at home — coming off a 6-3 road trip that had helped them hold the league's second wild-card spot.

Yovani Gallardo (5-8) was tagged for eight runs and failed to get an out in the fifth inning.

Royals 6, Athletics 2

In Oakland, California, Cam Gallagher hit a grand slam for his first career home run and second big league hit, leading Kansas City past Oakland.

Gallagher's shot in the sixth inning marked the first slam by a Royals rookie since Paulo Orlando connected against Tampa Bay on July 7, 2015.

Jake Junis (5-2), recalled for his seventh stint with Kansas City this season, allowed two runs and four hits in six innings. The Royals are five games back of AL Central-leading Cleveland.

Jharel Cotton (5-10) gave up six runs and eight hits in six innings and has an 8.71 ERA in four starts since coming off the disabled list July 30 from a right thumb blister. His winless stretch reached five starts and he is 0-3 since a victory at the White Sox on June 23.

Padres 7, Phillies 4

In San Diego, Jose Pirela's two-out, two-run single highlighted the four-run sixth inning that carried San Diego past Philadelphia.

Cory Spangenberg hit a leadoff homer in the eighth to finish with three hits and three runs. Pirela, Austin Hedges and Carlos Asuaje each had two hits, and Hedges also drove in two runs.

Phillies rookie Rhys Hoskins hit his first two major league home runs.

The teams swapped the lead three times, with the Padres going ahead for good in the sixth on three hits and two walks off Ricardo Pinto (1-1).

Jose Torres (7-3) got the last out of the sixth and Brad Hand pitched the ninth for his 10th save.

Seahawks' Bennett plans to sit for anthem, expects backlash

CARSON, California (AP)—Seattle Seahawks defensive end Michael Bennett plans to sit during the national anthem this season to protest social injustice—and expects a backlash over an issue that is "bigger than a sport."

He sat on the visiting bench during "The Star-Spangled Banner" before a preseason opener against the Los Angeles Chargers, a decision he made before weekend protests by white supremacists at the University of Virginia.

The violence in Charlottesville, Virginia, including the death of a young woman struck by a car deliberately driven into a group of counter-protesters Saturday, solidified Bennett's decision.

"With everything that's been going on the last couple of months and especially after the last couple of days, seeing everything in Virginia, seeing what's going on out there earlier today in Seattle, I just wanted to be able to use my platform to be able to continue to speak over injustice," Bennett said.

AP

In this June 13, 2017, file photo, Seattle Seahawks defensive end Michael Bennett walks off the field following NFL football practice in Renton, Wash. Bennett says he will sit during the national anthem this season to protest social injustice and segregation.

"First of all, I want people to understand I love the military. My father was in the military. I love hot dogs like any other American. I love football like any other American, but I don't love segregation," he added. "I don't love riots. I don't love oppression. I don't love gender slander. I just want to see people have the equality that they deserve, and I want to be able to use this platform to continuously push the message of that, you know, and keep journeying out and keep finding out how unselfish can we be as a society."

Bennett was at least the third prominent NFL player to protest during the anthem in the first full week of preseason games. Oakland Raiders running back Marshawn Lynch, a former teammate of Bennett's in Seattle, also sat. Los Angeles Rams defensive end Robert Quinn raised his right fist, continuing his approach from last season following then-San Francisco 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick's decision to kneel during the anthem.

Kaepernick is a free agent, and the fallout from his protest has not abated, even as he remains unsigned.

Bennett is willing to deal with similar consequences.

"Of course, I'm going to face backlash," he said. "This is bigger than me. This is bigger than football. This is bigger than anything that we have. This is about people. This is about bringing opportunities to people, giving people equality. This is bigger than a sport."

Bennett said he had spoken with several other NFL players about possible protests, but had not talked with Lynch yet. While he acknowledged the possibility of more widespread and organized protests, Bennett wanted to express himself.

"I think everybody has a time where they feel like they need to be who they are and stand up for what they believe in," Bennett said.

Seahawks coach Pete Carroll did not have a response to Bennett's actions, saying he became aware of it only after the game.

Bennett said the aim of his protest is to make people uncomfortable. In the process, he hopes to spur greater communication, understanding and involvement across racial, gender and socio-economic lines.

"Everyone is in their comfort zone right now," Bennett said. "Get out there and become uncomfortable. Go out there and see what it's like out there in society right now."

Houston's Reader ready to step in for Wilfork

WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS, W.Va. (AP)—Filling Vince Wilfork's shoes is daunting.

The good news for the Houston Texans and D.J. Reader is that he spent his rookie season being groomed for this job by the nose tackle before he retired this month.

Getting to spend a season with Wilfork was a thrill for Reader, who watched him growing up and throughout his career at Clemson. The pair spent hours together on and off the field last year in Wilfork's second season in Houston after he played for the New England Patriots for 11 seasons.

"It helped a lot especially just how to handle double teams and learning a little bit about how to be a pro and things like that," Reader said.

Reader isn't intimidated by moving into Wilfork's spot and actually takes pride in the fact that he's now starting in the place that the player he always idolized once held.

"It feels good for sure," he said. "Can't really worry about (comparisons to) him, I just go out there and practice hard and play hard."

Coach Bill O'Brien saw the benefits of the relationship between Wilfork and Reader and knows that he'll continue to learn this season from other veterans on the defensive line such as superstar defensive end J.J. Watt.

"With Vince retiring and not being here, we've still got J.J. in there (as) a great mentor for D.J. and we've got some guys in there that do a great job just working together," O'Brien said. "It was good to have that experience with Vince last year and now he's having that experience with Watt this year, which is great."

The Texans need Reader to take a step forward this season to man the middle of a line featuring Watt and 2014 top overall pick Jadeveon Clowney.

Reader appeared in each game last season and made seven starts while Wilfork was dealing with injuries. He finished with 22 tackles and one sack in his first season after the Texans drafted him in the fifth round following a Clemson career where he played 46 games and had 145 tackles.

He's impressed in camp so far with O'Brien raving about his work in practice.

"He's an excellent player, excellent young player," O'Brien said. "Tough, strong, plays low to the ground, very smart, good teammate. He's got all the qualities that you're looking for in a good player."

The 6-foot-3, 335-pound Reader believes he's a much different player than he was a year ago. Part of his improvement comes from a mindset of pushing himself to his limits.

"It's about being in every play, playing with effort and technique every single play. Just not stopping," he said. "No matter how tired you get you've still got one more rep in you. I think that's important."

Goodell: Have to understand other side in anthem protests

GLENDALE, Ariz. (AP)—Asked about players who did not stand for the national anthem before preseason games, NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell said Monday that while the playing of the anthem is a special moment to him, "we also have to understand the other side."

Goodell made the comments at University of Phoenix Stadium during a 45-minute question-and-answer period with Arizona Cardinals club seat holders. One season ticket-holder, Bruce Olson, asked the commissioner whether players were going to continue to protest during the anthem and if anything could be done about it.

"It's one of those things where I think we have to understand that there are people that have different viewpoints," Goodell said. "The national anthem is a special moment to me. It's a point of pride. But we also have to understand the other side, that people do have rights and we want to respect those."

Seattle Seahawks defensive end Michael Bennett sat on the visiting bench during the anthem before the preseason opener against the Los Angeles Chargers on Sunday, a decision he made before weekend protests by white supremacists in Charlottesville, Virginia. Bennett has said that the aim of his protest is to make people uncomfortable. In the process, he hopes to spur greater communication, understanding and involvement across racial, gender and socio-economic lines.

Oakland Raiders running back Marshawn Lynch sat on a cooler during the anthem Saturday night on the field at University of Phoenix Stadium. Los Angeles Rams defensive end Robert Quinn raised a first before his team's game.

The fact that former San Francisco 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick is still looking for a team to play for after his kneel-down protests last season is also still a hot topic.

Goodell, without mentioning any of the players, said other players are taking the platform they have into local communities to create dialogue toward positive change.

"Protest to progress is what I call it, and we all have to recognize that if we want to see change, let's go out and try to make that change happen in a peaceful and important way," Goodell said.

Olson, who described himself as a season-ticket holder "since Day 1," said the commissioner "beat around the bush" on the issue. He said he'd like Goodell to take a tougher stance.

"The thing is, all he (Lynch) has to do is stand up for two minutes and he can still have whatever beliefs he wants. Go with what looks good for the game and to the people," Olson said. "He (Goodell) makes rules and, 'You do this, you do that,' why can't he just say 'You stand up. You can believe what you want or do what you want. Just stand up like a man.'"

Goodell also addressed other issues:

■ On starting the season with a major star suspended, as is the case with Cowboys running back Ezekiel Elliott, who is out for six games after the league investigated accusations of domestic violence against him: "You never like to see that happen. That's not something good. Those things are dictated by circumstances. We do everything we can to make sure we're enforcing our policies and holding the standards to the highest level. That's an unfortunate part of that, but that's what you do."

■ On the rule change that will allow players more freedom to celebrate big plays: "They (players) were a driving force behind our changes in the celebration rule. They've been very impactful in the way we think about different aspects of our game and our experience in what we need to do."

■ On concussions, when a fan asked him about safety for his 10-year-old son: "The most important thing is to get the right facts, and we've put all our facts out there. We want a greater awareness. The reality is nowadays we're so much smarter about the brain and injuries, and we have so much further to go."

MIBF pushes back 3x3 Hoopfest opening

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The Mariana Islands Basketball Federation moved the inaugural 3x3 Hoopfest from August to next month to give Saipan, Tinian, and Rota separate tournaments before the finals set in the last week of September.

The tournament was originally scheduled for Aug. 25 to 27 with Tinian and Rota teams coming over to Saipan to compete. Organizers, however, chose to divide it into three stages with the Top 2 teams on Tinian and Rota qualifying for the final round.

The Saipan leg will be held from Sept. 5 to 9 with the first round of games to be played at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. Tinian and Rota will then have their respective tournaments in the second and third week of September.

Organizers are waiting which between Tinian and Rota would schedule their games on the second and third week of September. The finals, where all teams that qualified will be competing, will be on Sept. 30 to Oct. 1 at the Civic Center Basketball Court.

A maximum of 12 teams in each division—U16 and U19 boys' and girls', and men's and women's open—or a total of 72 is the limit allowed to participate in the respective qualifying tournaments.

Tournament fee is $50 with each team having three players and one substitute. Prizes and awards will be given away to the winning squads.

The champions in the open division of the 3x3 tournament will represent the CNMI in the 2017 Pacific Mini Games in Vanuatu this December.

Teams that plan to compete must first register at 3x3planet.com to create a FIBA (Fédération Internationale de Basketball or International Basketball Federation) 3x3 player profile.

MIBF is encouraging teams—captain and players—to attend a dry run or exhibition on Aug. 19 from 9am to 12pm at the Ada Gym. Tournament organizers will be explaining the FIBA rules and assist the players with the registration process if they have trouble registering online.

Teams would then be allowed to play some exhibition games once the rules and other regulations are explained. The matches would also serve as a training and instructional tool for the referees and table officials of the tournament.

MIBF said the winning team in the open division must meet the eligibility requirements set by the Pacific Games Council. "Should the team that wins not meet the eligibility criteria, the next best team that meets the qualifying criteria will get to represent the CNMI. The prizes and awards will remain with the winning team though."

As per council regulations, athletes who are passport holders of the country they are representing must have a minimum of five years residency in all sports excluding football, netball, Rugby 7s, and weightlifting, which would follow eligibility rules by their respective international federations.

The 10th edition of the quadrennial Mini Games will be held from Dec. 4 to 15 in Port Vila with 3x3 basketball among the 14 sports to be played.

The CNMI will also be competing in athletics, golf, and Rugby 7s while the local weightlifting federation is studying the possibility of competing.

For more information, contact MIBF officials Preston Basa at 989-2516 or email pbasa03@gmail.com or Elias Rangamar at 287-6347 or email eli_rag@yahoo.com.

Masters, Aces to open Masters baseball

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Defending champion GSM Masters will start its title retention bid against the BSI Aces on Aug. 28 in the 2017 season of the Masters Baseball League at the Francisco M. Palacios Baseball Field.

Only four teams joined the Masters League with the Bolleros taking on the Papa Bears on Aug. 30. Game time is set at 6:30pm.

The Masters League, a program under the Saipan Baseball League, is for players 40 years old and above. The other division, which details of the season are still being finalized, is the Under-25 for youth players.

SBL league coordinator Tony Rogolifoi is reminding all teams in the Masters division to submit their final roster of players and $1,000 entry fee before the Aug. 28 opening. The entrance fee must be made payable to SBL Inc.

The U25 league held its meeting last Friday and details of what was discussed were not yet available at press time. Three teams have confirmed their participation in the U25 division: Blue Jays, C.K. Bears, and the Pirates.

The U25 is open to players starting at 17 years old, but those who are 16 could be allowed to play if he showed that he could compete against those who are older in the division.

U25 is a league that gives former Big League players under the Little League program the opportunity to continue playing baseball and at the same time further honing their skills.

Rogolifoi has also encouraged all teams to have their complete uniforms before the league opens and to look for their respective sponsors to help them defray the league expenses—entry fees, uniforms, and equipment.

For more information, call Rogolifoi or SBL Inc. secretary Marlena Castro at 234-6672.

Limited slots for coed beach v'ball

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

A maximum of 12 teams will only be allowed to play in the End of Summer Coed 4-person Beach Volleyball Tournament, which will be held this Saturday at Sandy Beach behind Surf Club in Chalan Kanoa.

The tournament, hosted by Saipan Volley, will be a one-day event with registration and payment of the $10 entrance fee at 8am to 9am. Games will start once all teams have registered.

Tournament director Shawn M. Davis said they put a cap on the number of teams allowed to compete since a concert will also be held at the beach side after their event.

"We're hoping for eight to 10 teams so more games can be played by all. But we're putting a cap of 12 teams. The games need to be done roughly around 4pm as the music concert starts at 5pm," said Davis.

Each team is allowed to have a maximum of six players where one female member inside the court in a game.

Players 18 years old and below must have a signed liability waiver by their parent or legal guardian to be permitted to join.

Those who would join the tournament are entitled for a discounted prize when purchasing tickets for the Marianas Music Festival 2017, which would be held after the beach volleyball tournament.

Tickets, for those who will be joining the End of Summer tournament, will be $18 each, down from its original price of $30.

Tom Basa Jr. & the Marianas Project featuring Marvin Guerrero, Uprooted CNMI featuring Josh Q. Castro, Sensi Roots, Chris Malafunkshun, Mix Plate, and the John Dank Show are the featured artists in the concert.

For more information on the beach volleyball tournament, email Davis at shawnd62@hotmail.com.

AYUYUS

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hosts' New Yangdong FC and Gwangju FC, losing all four training matches.

"The boys got confidence even if we lost all our games. In every match, we create some opportunities and we even scored. The boys learned they can score against tough teams," said Mita.

Sunjoon Tenorio made a goal in the squad's 1-4 defeat at the hands of Kunimi High School and added one more in their 3-6 loss to Kyoto Kyoei Gakuen. James Ermitanio and Joshua De Leon also hit the board in their game against Kyoto.

"The teams we played against were very organized and skilled. They were very tough defenders and it felt good to be able to beat them and score two goals," Tenorio said.

Tenorio and company were shut down by New Yangdong FC, 0-3, but Mita felt the Teen Ayuyus played their best game against the Korean squad.

"The boys battled for every possession and we even had several opportunities to score against their tough defense. I felt our team's potential in that match," the head coach said.

Mita added that the Teen Ayuyus assessed each match, learning their lapses and finding ways to correct them. After challenging high-level teams, the CNMI players also realized how important it is to create spaces for their teammates, be decisive, and communicate better to keep up with their opponents.

"These teams have good individual players and we can't beat them if we rely on our individual skills. The boys tried working on their chemistry and they got better each game. They can play here even if they miss, but in the international level they can't do that, they have to execute their technique under pressure and be quick in making decisions," the head coach said.

"The players vowed to change their mindset for the AFC tournament. They are more committed to the team and I and the coaching staff reminded them to focus on soccer and maintain the motivation they got through the camp," Mita added.

The Teen Ayuyus will be competing in the AFC U19 Championship 2018 Qualifiers that will be held from Oct. 31 to Nov. 8. They will be playing against host Australia, Hong Kong, and North Korea.

"We need to get better technically. We know we still have a lot of work to do, and we will continue to work on them," Tenorio said.

ROBBIE

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In the girls U16 singles, two-time champion Carol Lee hammered Vanuatu's Daisy Spiti, 6-0, 6-0, to earn a quarterfinal berth. Lee will duel Tonga's Kava Taufa today to complete her Group A assignment. In Group D, Grace Choi failed to make it back-to-back after bowing to Tonga's Peata Fatao, 1-6, 0-6. Choi is now pressed to pull off an upset over No. 3 Eleanor Schuster of Samoa to keep her quarterfinal hopes alive, while Malika Miyawaki must also prevail against No. 2 Naia Guitton of Tahiti to avoid elimination.

In the boys U14 singles, top seed Ji Min Woo moved a win away from a pool sweep after beating Vanuatu's Warea Tigona, 6-2, 6-4. Woo, who is now in the quarterfinals, will go for victory No. 3 when he squares off against Tonga's Christopher Maasi in Group A.

In Group B, Seung Jin Paik is still in the playoff race following a 6-1, 6-0 triumph over Guam's Andrew Leng. Paik has a 1-1 record, tying the three other players in his group as No. 2 Maui Leflon, who lost to Leng in Day 1, fought back and topped Tahiti's Meheannu Larson yesterday, 6-0, 2-6, 10-6.

Sean Lee is also in the fight for a quarterfinal ticket after his 6-1, 6-2 victory against Guam's Thomas Ysrael. Lee (1-1) is in deadlock for second place with No. 4 and Tuvalu's Kalese Kofe, who was stunned by unranked Tahiti player Manovai Elie (2-0), 6-3, 5-7, 13-11. The fourth CNMI bet in the boys U14 singles, Richard Steele, is out of contention after absorbing back-to-back losses. Steele will play his last game in Group C today against FSM's Jerson Freddy.

In the girls U14 singles, siblings Coume and Conatsu Kaga marched into the quarterfinals with Lee and Miyawaki in the semis.

KAGA

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per half of the draw and will join forces with the Federated States of Micronesia's Jefferson Freddy in battling Tahiti's Meheannu Larson and New Caledonia's Terence Winter.

In the girls U16 doubles, defending champion Carol Lee has a new partner in Malika Miyawaki and the CNMI duo will go for a semis ticket against Samoa's Penina Kamu and Tonga's Kava Taufa. Grace Choi will work with Fiji's Saoirse Breen and a win against Tonga's Peata Fatai and Brookie Maasi will allow the CNMI-Fiji pair to cross

In the boys U16 doubles, Robbie Schorr and Ken Song, who won last year's boys U14 doubles title, will team up anew and will face the Cook Islands' Elijah Amataiti and Samoa's Kristen Pavitt in the quarterfinals. The CNMI's other team—Michael Ren and Vincent Tudela—will square off against Tuvalu's Gavin Molotii and Vanuatu's Samuel Strid. Ren and Tudela are seeded second in the division, while Vanuatu's Marlin Hannam and Clement Mainguy are the top-ranked players and automatically moved to the semifinals.

Coume got her second win after downing Vanuatu's Desiree Signo in Group D, 6-4, 6-1, to move into the next round. Conatsu joined her sister following a 6-1, 6-1 triumph over the Solomon Islands' Prudence Bird in Group C, 6-1, 6-1. The older Kaga will go for a sweep when she faces FSM's Anne Skilling today, while the No. 3 seed Conatsu will also gun for a perfect record when she duels Tahiti's Kira Fong Loi.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	67	51	.568	—
New York	62	55	.530	4½
Baltimore	59	60	.496	8½
Tampa Bay	59	61	.492	9
Toronto	57	61	.483	10

Central Division

Cleveland	64	52	.552	—
Minnesota	59	57	.509	5
Kansas City	60	58	.508	5
Detroit	53	65	.449	12
Chicago	45	70	.391	18½

West Division

Houston	72	46	.610	—
Los Angeles	61	58	.513	11½
Seattle	59	61	.492	14
Texas	57	60	.487	14½
Oakland	52	67	.437	20½

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Washington	66	45	.595	—
Miami	53	58	.477	13
Atlanta	51	60	.459	15
New York	50	60	.455	15½
Philadelphia	41	69	.373	24½

Central Division

Chicago	59	53	.527	—
Milwaukee	59	56	.513	1½
St. Louis	57	56	.504	2½
Pittsburgh	56	57	.496	3½
Cincinnati	46	67	.407	13½

West Division

Los Angeles	79	33	.705	—
Arizona	64	48	.571	15
Colorado	64	49	.566	15½
San Diego	50	62	.446	29
San Francisco	45	70	.391	35½

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

HK SSS vs NMI U16 in 2017 Youth Summer Futsal Tournament

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

An HK SSS player, right, dribbles away from NMI U16's John Ezekiel Canape during their boys U16 game in the Saipan Soccer School's 2017 Youth Summer Futsal Tournament last month at the TSL Sports Complex.

NMI U16's Jim Maniago, right, breaks away from HK SSS defenders.

An HK SSS player, right, stops the ball, as NMI U16's Jim Maniago closes in on defense.

An HK SSS player has possession, while an NMI U16 defender moves in.

NMI U16's Jim Maniago, left, and an HK SSS player battle for the ball.

An HK SSS defender, left, tries to pressure an NMI U16 player.

NMI U16's John Ezekiel Canape dribbles out of the box.

HK SSS and NMI U16 players wait for the play to resume.

Stanton hits team-record 43rd homer, Marlins beat Giants, 8-3

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Sports

Seahawks' Bennett plans to sit for anthem, expects backlash

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Robbie Schorr survives scare

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Robbie Schorr, seen here receiving a serve during his and Moris Villanueva's doubles game against Vincent Tudela and Japan's Kanata Abe in the 2017 Northern Marianas Juniors Championships at the Pacific Islands Club, is still unbeaten in the 2017 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships in Fiji.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Robbie Schorr battled back from an opening set loss to remain unbeaten in the boys U16 singles event of the 2017 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships.

Schorr bowed to Hirinaki Lo in the first set, 4-6, before sweeping the last two, 6-4, 6-1, to avoid the upset axe of the Tahiti player and improve his record to 2-0 in Group C of pool play yesterday in Fiji. With the tough victory, which came a day after the No. 3 Schorr got a free win over Guam's Camden Camacho (forfeit), the CNMI player is now assured of a quarterfinal slot in the division. Schorr will go for a sweep in the pool play when he takes on Fiji's Shantanu Shail (0-2).

Also moving to the Round of 8 in the boys U16 singles is Ken Song, despite losing to No. 1 seed Clement Mainguy in Group A. Song finished pool play with a 1-1 record with his victory recorded against the Cook Islands' Elijah Amataiti last Monday, 6-1, 6-1.

The CNMI's two other entries in the boys U16 singles dropped their Day 2 assignments with Vincent Tudela falling to No. 2 Jeremy Guines of Tahiti, 1-6, 0-6, and No. 4 Michael Ren losing to the unranked Kristen Pavitt of Samoa, 4-6, 1-6. Ren now has a 1-1 slate and needs to win against Vanuatu's Marlin Hannam (2-0) in their Group D game to remain in contention for a slot to the quarterfinal round. Tudela, who has a 0-2 card, has been eliminated and will try to end his campaign on a positive note when he faces the Federated States of Micronesia's Williams Joab, who is also winless in Group B.

See ROBBIE on Page 26

Kaga sisters near doubles finals

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The CNMI Junior National Team and coach Jeff Race, third row right, pose for a photo during the opening ceremony of the 2017 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships in Fiji last Monday.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Siblings Coume and Conatsu Kaga got their acts together to eliminate their opponents at the start of the girls U14 doubles competition in the 2017 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships yesterday in Lautoka, Fiji.

The second seeded pair eased past the Solomon Islands' Marion Goatee and Tonga's Ana Vaka in the first set of their game at the lower half of the draw, 6-2, and then had an easier victory in the second, 6-0, to march into the semifinals of the seven-team field. The Kagas foes in the semifinals are the Solomon Islands duo of Prudence Bird and Zorika Morgan, who also needed only two sets to oust the Federated States of Micronesia's Anne Skilling and Ridianne Wolphagen, 6-2, 6-4.

Joining the CNMI and Solomon Islands pairs in the Final Four are Tahiti's Kira Fong Loi and Celina Snogan, who topped the Commonwealth's Maria Gregoire and Guam's Kaia Malakooti, 6-1, 6-0. The Tahiti players will have a tough semis assignment as they will challenge the No. 1 seed Desiree Signo of Vanuatu and Clara Cwajenbaum of New Caledonia.

Meanwhile, games in the boy U14 and girls and boys U16 doubles will start today.

In the boys U14 doubles, Ji Min Woo will partner with fellow CNMI player Seung Jin Paik and they will take on Fiji's Avikash Kumar and Vanuatu's Warea Tigona for one of the two semis spots at the bottom half of the draw. Richard Steele is also at the lower half of the draw and will team up with Tonga's Christopher Maasi when they duel No. 2 seed Manovai Elie and Mohearli Polin of Tahiti. Sean Lee, on the other hand, is at the up-

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Confident, motivated Teen Ayuyus

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI Boys U18 National Team came out confident and motivated after completing a five-day training camp in South Korea last week.

"It was a great training camp. We learned a lot from the Korean and Japanese teams we faced. The boys gained confidence, worked hard to build chemistry, and were motivated to work harder on their games, individually and as a team," said head coach and Northern Mariana Islands Football Association technical director Michiteru Mita, who supervised the Teen Ayuyus' training camp from Aug. 6 to 10 at the Changnyeong Sports Park with the help of assistant coaches Jersh Angeles and Jonathan Takano.

The team dueled Japan's Kunimi High School and Kyoto Kyoei Gakuen and the

See AYUYUS on Page 26

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
CNMI Boys U18 National Team's starting 11 gather for a group photo before challenging New Yangdong FC last week during a training camp in South Korea.